UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.96/846/Part II/1
18 July 1995

Original: ENGLISH

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME

Forty-sixth session

UNHCR ACTIVITIES FINANCED BY VOLUNTARY FUNDS: REPORT FOR 1994-1995 AND PROPOSED PROGRAMMES AND BUDGET FOR 1996

PART II. ASIA AND OCEANIA

Section 1 - Australia and New Zealand

(submitted by the High Commissioner)

GE.95-02316

II.1 AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

1. Beneficiary population

1. An estimate made in the early 1990s indicated the presence of some 32,400 refugees in Australia. During Australian fiscal year 1993-1994, 7,304 persons applied for refugee status in Australia. In 1994, a significant number of refugees who sought asylum in Australia came from former Yugoslavia, Asia and Africa. Australia also took in a considerable number of refugees from other regions of Europe, the Middle East and Latin America. Assistance to the refugees is provided by the Government of Australia.

2. During 1994, the New Zealand Government made some 800 asylum adjudication decisions, 300 of which resulted in decisions for applications for refugee status. There were a total of 890 refugee resettlement arrivals in 1994. For 1994, the refugee quota intake by New Zealand was 737 persons. Assistance to the refugees is provided by the Government of New Zealand.

3. In addition to Australia and New Zealand, including the Cook Islands and Niue, the UNHCR Regional Office in Canberra covers ten countries in the South Pacific: the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. No significant influx of asylum-seekers took place to these islands.

2. Developments in 1994 and 1995

4. In 1994, in response to governmental and public interest in UNHCR's role in international humanitarian activities, the Regional Office actively participated in various seminars, workshops and conferences.

5. In New Zealand, the participation of the Regional Office in the appeal proceedings of the Refugee Status Appeals Authority (RSAA) continued without interruption.

6. In 1994 and the beginning of 1995, Australia received several boat arrivals of Vietnamese. One group comprised Vietnamese screened-out from Galang, Indonesia, while another was composed of Vietnamese refugees who were settled in southern China.

7. As result of negotiations between the Australian and Indonesian Governments, the majority of the group of Vietnamese from Galang returned to Galang, Indonesia. Negotiations with the Chinese Government reached an agreement that these refugees should return to the country of settlement. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the two Governments; some persons among this group have already returned to China. UNHCR actively assisted the concerned Governments during these negotiations.

8. To deal with the issues raised by these boat arrivals, the Australian Government initiated legislation to define the application of certain refugee criteria of its national law.

3. 1996 country programmes

(a) Objectives

9. As in previous years, UNHCR's primary objective in the region continues to be the promotion of international refugee law through training at various levels benefiting governmental, non-governmental and other refugee interest groups. The Regional Office will continue to advocate with government authorities on behalf of individual cases and particular groups of refugees and asylum-seekers.

(b) Implementing partners

10. In New Zealand, the Regional Office will continue its role in the RSAA. For the South Pacific region, the Regional Office will promote awareness of, and respect for, refugee law and fundamental human rights.

11. The Regional Office will continue its various activities in public information and advocacy through its External Relations office in Sydney.

12. The UNHCR Regional Office in Canberra works in close cooperation with the relevant departments of the Australian and New Zealand Governments. The NGOs, community organizations and refugee interest groups in Australia and New Zealand all help provide needed facilities and services to asylum-seekers and refugees. The UNHCR Regional Office will seek to strengthen these efforts through further promotional activities.

(c) Programme Delivery and Administrative Support Costs

13. Variations due to changes in budget parameters are not discussed in the subsequent analysis (Overview of UNHCR Activities, Part I(A/AC.96/845) refers).

(i) 1994 expenditure (all sources of funds)

14. The 1994 expenditure was marginally higher than revised estimates mainly due to costs associated with public information missions to Sydney pending establishment of a field location in Sydney and redeployment of a post. This was largely offset by the savings under chapters for travel and contractual services.

(ii) Revised 1995 requirements (all sources of funds)

15. The revised 1995 requirements are slightly higher than initial estimates mainly due to the creation of a new post of Administrative Clerk/Receptionist in Sydney to work with the External Relations Officer.

(iii) Initial 1996 requirements (all sources of funds)

16. The 1996 initial requirements are not significantly different from 1995 revised requirements.

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

(in thousands of United States dollars)

1994	1995		1996	
AMOUNT OBLIGATED	ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1994 EXCOM	PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION	SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION
GENERAL PROGRAMMES (1)				
66.7 a/	–	–	VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION	–
681.1	754.8	1,009.8	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	991.6
747.8	**754.8**	**1,009.8**	**SUB–TOTAL OPERATIONS**	**991.6**
116.5	109.0	88.8	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Overview Tables (Part II)	87.9
864.3	**863.8**	**1,098.6**	**T O T A L (1)**	**1,079.5**
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES (2)				
3.6	–	–	OTHER TRUST FUNDS	–
215.4	129.6	–	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	–
29.2	25.3	–	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT Junior Professional Officer See Overview Tables (Part II)	–
248.2	**154.9**	**0.0**	**T O T A L (2)**	**0.0**
1,112.5	**1,018.7**	**1,098.6**	**GRAND TOTAL (1+2)**	**1,079.5**

a/ obligation incurred against Other Programmes

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.96/846/Part II/2
28 July 1995

Original: ENGLISH

PROPERTY OF

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME

Forty-sixth session

UNHCR ACTIVITIES FINANCED BY VOLUNTARY FUNDS: REPORT FOR 1994-1995 AND PROPOSED PROGRAMMES AND BUDGET FOR 1996

PART II. ASIA AND OCEANIA

Section 2 - Bangladesh

(submitted by the High Commissioner)

GE.95-02376

II.2 BANGLADESH

1. Beneficiary population

1. At 31 December 1994, a total of 116,000 refugees from the Rakhine State in Myanmar were assisted in 15 camps located in the southern part of Bangladesh in Cox's Bazar and Bandarban districts. In addition, as of March 1995, some 170 urban refugees, mostly Somalis, have been assisted in Dhaka.

2. The refugee population was reduced dramatically with the successful voluntary repatriation of over 81,000 refugees, carried out under a bilateral agreement between the Governments of Bangladesh and Myanmar, with the active participation of UNHCR in both countries since the second quarter of 1994. (Details on the voluntary repatriation programme are specifically covered under part II/10 of this document, Regional Special Programmes: Myanmar Repatriation). A further 55,850 refugees returned to Myanmar during the first four months of 1995. According to a head-count carried out at the end of April 1995, a total of 54,500 refugees remained in Bangladesh, accommodated in nine camps.

3. The refugees are mainly Muslims of rural background. They speak a language similar to the Chittagonian dialect, which is widely spoken by the local population in Cox's Bazar district. The majority of the refugees are illiterate. Koranic teaching has been available in the camps.

2. Developments in 1994 and 1995

4. While priority was given to the voluntary repatriation operation, close attention was also paid to care and maintenance activities in order to provide needed assistance for the remaining refugee population in the camps pending a durable solution. During the third quarter of 1994, in the wake of a severe cyclone that had hit the camps on 2 May, major inputs were directed to the rehabilitation of shelters and basic camp facilities, including health centres, latrines and water systems. Costs for these were evaluated at more than $ 1.8 million and were partially met through a reallocation of resources within the 1994 approved budget, and from the education sector which, because of the Government's policy, could not be implemented. Other important activities were carried out according to established plans. No major problems were experienced with respect to the provision of food. Basic food commodities were provided by the World Food Programme. Procurement and distribution of non-food items included compressed rice husks, which were used by the refugee families as cooking fuel and thus contributed to a reduction in tree felling in the vicinity of the refugee camps.

5. Given the repatriation momentum, emphasis during the last quarter of 1994 and the first quarter of 1995 was placed on camp closures and camp consolidation. Particular attention is being given to the UNHCR assets installed in the camps, such as water systems, which after maintenance will, to the extent possible, be handed over to the Government for the local population's use. The care and

maintenance component of the revised 1995 programme will be implemented in a phased manner, taking into account the reduction in numbers of beneficiaries based on the 1994 repatriation movements and departure trends. For budgetary purposes, the planning assumptions previously made for 1995 have been maintained, i.e., that voluntary repatriation movements will have been completed by the end of the year. As of April 1995, however, the trend has been a slow-down in the repatriation movements, a matter that UNHCR believes will need to be resolved bilaterally between the Governments of Bangladesh and Myanmar.

6. With respect to the urban caseload, subsistence allowances, primary education, health care and legal counselling were provided as planned.

7. The implementation of the special programme component covering development projects targeting the affected Bangladeshi villages neighbouring the refugee camps was completed in the second quarter of 1995. At the end of the programme, 113 projects focusing on rehabilitation and construction activities in the sectors of health, water development, sanitation, shelter and education have been successfully implemented.

8. Eight university students, all of them Somali, are attending medical and dental classes in the 1994/1995 academic year.

3. 1996 country programmes

(a) Objectives

9. As stated above, on the basis of the repatriation rate experienced in 1994 and early 1995, it is expected that durable solutions will have been found for Myanmar refugees by the end of 1995. On the other hand, given slow-down trends since April 1995 in the repatriation movements, between 30,000 and 40,000 refugees may still remain in camps in Bangladesh at the end of the year. However, no provision of funds is specifically proposed at this stage for 1996 for assistance to Myanmar refugees in Bangladesh. UNHCR is preparing a contingency plan for basic assistance activities to be provided for any eventual caseload remaining in Bangladesh on 1 January 1996. UNHCR activities in 1996 in Bangladesh will thus focus on assistance to approximately 180 urban refugees, mainly Somalis, who will continue to receive basic assistance to cover their domestic needs, education and health care pending durable solutions such as voluntary repatriation and possibly resettlement for qualifying cases.

(b) Proposed budgets for 1996

10. As no further assistance activities for Myanmar refugees are planned for 1996, at this stage, only limited funds will be required to implement the assistance programme for the urban caseload which will include the continuation of scholarships for the academic year 1996/1997 for eight students.

11. The sectoral breakdown for the initial and revised 1995 and the initial 1996 care and maintenance allocations is as follows (in dollars):

Sector	Initial 1995	Revised 1995	Initial 1996
Food	198,249	66,699	0
Transport	169,722	180,288	125
Domestic needs	1,434,940	858,070	157,435
Water	166,907	138,857	0
Sanitation	747,688	766,880	0
Health/nutrition	1,916,866	1,650,384	4,800
Shelter	1,230,101	1,116,433	0
Comm. services	20,759	14,525	10,100
Education	62,095	7,200	7,200
Legal assistance	63,797	15,494	3,440
Agency op. support	1,240,476	1,128,270	29,800
Total	7,251,600	5,943,100	212,900

(c) **Implementing partners**

12. The programme of assistance for the urban caseload in Dhaka will be managed as in past years by the Dhaka Asania Mission (DAM).

(d) **Programme Delivery and Administrative Support Costs**

13. Variation due to changes in budget parameters are not discussed in the subsequent analysis (Overview of UNHCR Activities, Part I (A/AC.96/845) refers).

(i) **1994 expenditure (all sources of funds)**

14. The 1994 expenditure was lower than revised estimates mainly as a result of under-expenditure in non-staff costs, most significantly under the travel budget. The travel budget had been drawn up on the assumption of frequent staff travel in Cox's Bazar; in the event, this proved unnecessary.

(ii) **Revised 1995 requirements (all sources of funds)**

15. The revised 1995 requirements are lower than initial estimates mainly due to accelerated repatriation movements and gradual scaling down of the operation in Bangladesh Therefore, there is a reduction in local support costs, particularly in the second half of 1995 with 62 posts expected to be discontinued by the end of 1995.

(iii) **Initial 1996 requirements (all sources of funds)**

16. The 1996 initial requirements are principally lower due to the planned closure of Sub-Office Cox's Bazar by March 1996. With the repatriation expected to be completed in 1996, it is planned to retain only four posts in Dhaka to handle the urban caseload.

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN BANGLADESH

(in thousands of United States dollars)

1994	1995		1996	
AMOUNT OBLIGATED	ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1994 EXCOM	PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION	SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION
GENERAL PROGRAMMES (1)				
25.0	–	–	EMERGENCY FUND	–
10,977.7 a/	7,251.6	5,943.1	CARE AND MAINTENANCE	212.9
6.3 b/	–	–	VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION	–
0.2 b/	–	–	LOCAL SETTLEMENT	–
3.9 b/	–	–	RESETTLEMENT	–
2,592.6	1,433.0	1,100.2	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	362.7
13,605.7	**8,684.6**	**7,043.3**	**SUB–TOTAL OPERATIONS**	**575.6**
331.3	261.6	253.9	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Overview Tables (Part II)	121.0
13,937.0	**8,946.2**	**7,297.2**	**T O T A L (1)**	**696.6**
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES (2)				
12.8	25.6	–	EDUCATION ACCOUNT	–
65.3			OTHER TRUST FUNDS Extra–budgetary food	
4,002.7	3,917.3	1,733.0	Assistance to Myanmar refugees	–
368.6	1,301.6	1,383.9	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	166.0
–	88.2	107.8	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Overview Tables (Part II)	45.6
89.4	40.0	71.0	Junior Professional Officer See Overview Tables (Part II)	71.0
4,538.8	**5,372.7**	**3,295.7**	**T O T A L (2)**	**282.6**
18,475.8	**14,318.9**	**10,592.9**	**GRAND TOTAL (1+2)**	**979.2**

a/ of which US$ 2,327 incurred against Other Programmes
b/ obligation incurred against Other Programmes

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.96/846/Part II/3
18 July 1995

Original: ENGLISH

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME

Forty-sixth session

UNHCR ACTIVITIES FINANCED BY VOLUNTARY FUNDS: REPORT FOR 1994-1995 AND PROPOSED PROGRAMMES AND BUDGET FOR 1996

PART II. ASIA AND OCEANIA

Section 3 - China

(Submitted by the High Commissioner)

GE.95-02228

II.3 CHINA

1. Beneficiary population

1. As at 31 December 1994 there were 287,100 Indo-Chinese refugees in China. The refugees were settled on 194 state farms and production sites in southern China. Of these Indo-Chinese refugees, some 110,700 persons or about 38 per cent were under 18 years of age and some 140,300 persons, or approximately 48 per cent of the entire caseload, were female.

2. In addition to Indo-Chinese, at the end of 1994 there were 45 non-Indo-Chinese from the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Sri Lanka, Somalia, Rwanda and Myanmar. This small urban refugee caseload resides mainly in Beijing. The durable solutions sought for this group are primarily third country resettlement and, in some cases, voluntary repatriation. The group continued to receive assistance pending the identification of a durable solution.

2. Developments in 1994 and 1995

3. A UNHCR programme mission visited China in mid-June 1994 to undertake a review of the programme in selected provinces prior to attending a joint Government/UNHCR Symposium on the reorientation of the UNHCR programme and the modalities for introducing a revolving fund based credit scheme, convened at Nanchang city, Jiangxi Province. Following the Symposium, it was envisaged that the reorientation of the programme towards self-sustainability would be implemented to conclude the present local settlement programme within a three-year time frame, covering the period from 1994 to 1996, during which assistance would be exclusively aimed at addressing remaining needs of a clearly defined target group of poor farms and settlements in some 55 locations.

4. Under the 1994 programme, some 22 per cent of the annual programme allocation was implemented, albeit on an experimental basis, in the form of a credit scheme. It was estimated in September 1994 that during the following two years of the programme reorientation period, i.e. 1995 and 1996, the average percentage of the programme allocation under the credit scheme would be in the region of 50 to 60 per cent annually, with the balance continuing to be programmed as grant assistance. The successful experiments in Guangxi and Yunnan in 1994 had led the provincial implementing partners to significantly increase their respective credit scheme allocations, resulting in the actual combined allocation exceeding 80 per cent under the 1995 programme.

5. The 1995 programme allocation clearly shows that the newly introduced revolving fund based credit scheme is accorded priority and has already gained significant momentum beyond initial expectation in comparison with grant assistance. The decisive shift in favour of the credit scheme reflects the growing confidence of the implementing partners in the new approach adopted jointly between the Government and UNHCR with a view to achieving programme self-sustainability within the 1994-1996 established time frame. Given the present momentum, it is now anticipated that a higher percentage of the 1996 programme allocation would be implemented under the revolving fund based credit scheme.

6. In response to the High Commissioner's letter to the Chinese Government on the question of regularizing UNHCR's presence in China, the Chinese Government in August 1994 formally confirmed its agreement in principle to the proposal concerning upgrading of the Office of the Chief of Mission (OCM) to a Branch Office. Details of the cooperation agreement are under discussion and are expected to be finalized between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and OCM Beijing.

7. During the course of 1995, OCM Beijing will seek consultations with selected United Nations development agencies to explore, under the refugee aid and development approach, the feasibility of including the refugee hosting areas into their ongoing/planned area-based programmes in order to consolidate the impact of UNHCR assistance and facilitate the reintegration process. On the basis of preliminary discussions already undertaken with the Headquarters mission, United Nations Fund for Populations Activities (UNFPA) and FAO in particular will be approached to determine how their programme expertise and experience can be extended to the poorest refugee-hosting areas within the parameters of similar programmes benefiting local rural women they have already successfully implemented. This proposed complementary assistance is expected to provide a safety net for the most vulnerable groups, i.e. women and children, in the poorest refugee hosting farms at the final phase of the reorientation period.

3. 1996 country programmes

(a) Objectives

8. For 1996, the country programme objectives as established by OCM Beijing continue to be twofold: (a) the implementation of the policy and programme decisions adopted after the Nanchang Symposium concerning the reorientation of the programme toward self-sustainability to successfully conclude the programme by the end of 1996; and (b) the promotion of national legal procedures for determination of refugee status for the benefit of individual non-Indo-Chinese refugees and asylum-seekers.

9. In respect of Indo-Chinese refugees, the pursuit of the local settlement of this refugee population will be guided by two key policy considerations and assistance strategies. Firstly, local settlement can be seen as a genuine durable solution only if naturalization occurs. Secondly, the institutional dependency in the country of asylum must be overcome through strategies for building preparedness for solutions.

10. To this end, efforts will be made to strive for further progress on the basis of accomplishments already made during the course of 1993/1994 both in reorienting of the assistance programme towards self-sustainability and in further sensitizing the Government on issues relating to the eventual phasing out of UNHCR assistance and the durable solutions of naturalization and voluntary repatriation.

11. In respect of urban non-Indo-Chinese refugees, the main objective for 1996 will continue to be the promotion of international refugee protection to enhance the country's adherence to the basic provisions of the 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol. The situation of the non-Indo-Chinese refugees and asylum-seekers

will continue to be managed to serve as a catalyst in UNHCR's pursuit of dialogue and cooperation with the Chinese authorities in the vital areas of the procedures for refugee status determination and the principle of temporary asylum. Efforts will be made to maintain the momentum of the previous years, which saw a renewed interest among the concerned governmental departments in the elaboration of a national legislation on refugees. In this respect, UNHCR will continue to disseminate promotional materials in Chinese and to organize refugee law seminars for government officials. Moreover, at this stage of sensitization, more emphasis will be placed on providing technical training on refugee status determination.

(b) **Proposed budget for 1996**

(i) **General Programmes**

12. **Care and maintenance**: For 1996, the initial budget is based on a projected caseload of 45 persons (25 refugees and 20 persons of concern). This number will be monitored and, in the event of further increases, a revision may be required.

(c) **Local settlement**

13. In order to ensure the conclusion of the local resettlement programme within the established time frame, programme planning and implementation during the course of 1996 will strictly adhere to the recommendations of both the Nanchang Symposium and the August 1994 Report prepared by the Programme and Technical Support Section. The programme resources will be geared exclusively to meeting the remaining needs of the clearly identified target of poor farms/settlements as agreed upon between UNHCR and the Ministry of Civil Affairs (MCA). Within the framework of an integrated approach, the implementing partners will be provided with technical guidance to achieve an appropriate balance to address problems of unemployment as well as to ensure programme self-sustainability through the creation of durable financial assets for the programme beyond 1996.

(d) **Implementing partners**

14. The Office for the Reception and Settlement of Indo-Chinese refugees within the Ministry of Civil Affairs continues to be UNHCR's implementing partner for the local settlement assistance and voluntary repatriation of Indo-Chinese refugees. It maintains branches in each of the provinces with refugee populations and is responsible for overall project planning, monitoring and supervising implementation by state farms and enterprises in close collaboration with the provincial authorities and the local offices of the Overseas Chinese Affairs and Land Reclamation Bureau. For individual non-Indo-Chinese refugees and asylum-seekers, basic care and maintenance assistance continues to be provided directly by UNHCR in consultation and coordination with the Beijing Public Security Bureau and the Ministry of Public Security.

15. The Chinese Government has contributed most of the funding required for infrastructure development, housing, recurrent costs and living subsidies for the Indo-Chinese refugees. As at 31 December of 1993, the Chinese Government estimated

that it had already spent over $ 730 million for these refugees since their arrival in China in the late 1970s.

(e) **Programme Delivery and Administrative Support Costs**

16. Variations due to changes in budget parameters are not discussed in the subsequent analysis (Overview of UNHCR Activities, Part I (A/AC.96/845) refers).

(i) **1994 expenditure (all sources of funds)**

17. The 1994 expenditure was not significantly different from the revised estimates.

(ii) **Revised 1995 requirements (all sources of funds)**

18. The revised 1995 requirements are marginally higher for temporary assistance mainly because a further increase of some 15 per cent is anticipated in overall service charges relating to staff seconded by the Diplomatic Services Bureau.

(iii) **Initial 1996 requirements (all sources of funds)**

19. The 1996 requirements are not significantly different from the 1995 revised requirements.

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN CHINA

(in thousands of United States dollars)

1994	1995		1996	
AMOUNT OBLIGATED	ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1994 EXCOM	PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION	SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION
GENERAL PROGRAMMES (1)				
25.0	–	–	EMERGENCY FUND	–
179.6 a/	158.5	273.3	CARE AND MAINTENANCE	170.1
1.1 b/	–	–	VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION	–
2,036.3	2,061.0	2,058.0	LOCAL SETTLEMENT	2,112.0
2.0 b/	–	–	RESETTLEMENT	–
166.4	167.4	206.3	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	196.5
2,410.4	**2,386.9**	**2,537.6**	**SUB–TOTAL OPERATIONS**	**2,478.6**
133.2	133.5	124.7	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Overview Tables (Part II)	123.7
2,543.6	**2,520.4**	**2,662.3**	**T O T A L (1)**	**2,602.3**
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES (2)				
81.9	–	–	COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION	–
–	–	–	OTHER TRUST FUNDS	–
76.7	86.0	95.0	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT Junior Professional Officer See Overview Tables (Part II)	95.0
158.6	**86.0**	**95.0**	**T O T A L (2)**	**95.0**
2,702.2	**2,606.4**	**2,757.3**	**GRAND TOTAL (1+2)**	**2,697.3**

a/ of which US$ 9,615 incurred against Other Programmes

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

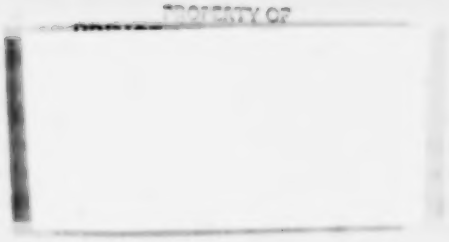
Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.96/846/Part II/4
9 August 1995

Original: ENGLISH

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME

Forty-sixth session



UNHCR ACTIVITIES FINANCED BY VOLUNTARY FUNDS: REPORT FOR 1994-1995 AND PROPOSED PROGRAMMES AND BUDGET FOR 1996

PART II. ASIA AND OCEANIA

Section 4 - Hong Kong

(submitted by the High Commissioner)

GE.95-02489

II.4 HONG KONG

1. Beneficiary population

1. In 1994, 107 Vietnamese arrived before 14 February 1994, the cut-off date set by the Fifth Steering Committee meeting for new arrivals to fall under the Comprehensive Plan of Action for Indo-Chinese Refugees (CPA). The Steering Committee took the view that arrivals after that date should be dealt with according to national legislation and internationally accepted principles. Of the 453 persons who had arrived in Hong Kong since that date and as of mid-July 1995, no case has as yet been determined to qualify for refugee status. The total Vietnamese population at 31 December 1994 stood at 24,310; virtually all of them were determined not to be refugees and therefore have to return to Viet Nam. There are still 1,700 Vietnamese refugees in Hong Kong.

2. Asylum-seekers who have been determined not to be refugees are accommodated in a number of detention centres located in the Hong Kong urban area and outlying islands. The Vietnamese refugee population is accommodated in Pillar Point camp, an open refugee centre where refugees are permitted full freedom of movement and also enjoy the right to employment. Refugees in Hong Kong came from both rural and urban backgrounds with the majority having only primary education. Approximately 59 per cent are male; 28 per cent are children below the age of 16.

3. In 1994, 21 non-Indo-Chinese asylum-seekers arrived in Hong Kong. Two of them were determined to be refugees.

2. Developments in 1994 and 1995

4. During 1994, 5,581 Vietnamese repatriated voluntarily to Viet Nam under UNHCR auspices on 38 charter and commercial flights. Of this total, 80 per cent returned to the north and the rest to the south and central areas of Viet Nam. This figure includes 62 unaccompanied minors who returned under the Family Reunion Programme.

5. Despite intensive counselling and an extensive information campaign, significantly fewer persons than in 1993 volunteered to return to Viet Nam under the UNHCR sponsored voluntary repatriation programme. The number of persons returned under the Orderly Return Programme (ORP) of the Hong Kong Government, 250, also represented a decline. UNHCR actively explored ways to promote voluntary repatriation. As an incentive to voluntary repatriation, the Hong Kong Government introduced an allowance of $150 to each returnee.

6. During 1994, 1,504 Vietnamese refugees were resettled in Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland the United Kingdom and the United States, or settled locally in Hong Kong.

7. Within the framework of the CPA, the Hong Kong Government completed the refugee status determination in December 1994, both the first instance with the Hong Kong Immigration Department and appeal by the Refugee Status Review Board. UNHCR 's mandate review was completed on 28 February 1995.

8. Simplified repatriation procedures, which are due to become operational by mid-1995, should lead to increased repatriation. A monthly target of 1,800 returnees is foreseen until the completion of CPA activities (targeted for early 1996 in Hong Kong). The new procedures will be accompanied by personalized counselling of the Vietnamese who are cleared for return. Coupled with the continuing information programme, it is hoped that the large majority of Vietnamese will choose to return under UNHCR auspices.

9. Following the technical meeting on Resettlement and Repatriation of the Steering Committee (Bangkok, June 1994), which set the end of 1994 as the target date for acceptances for resettlement of all remaining eligible refugees, UNHCR stepped up its resettlement efforts which resulted in 940 refugees being accepted for resettlement. The issues of refugees with drug addiction problems and those with criminal records were addressed. In cooperation with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and WHO, a detoxification programme was launched with assistance from a medical consultant.

3. 1996 country programmes

(a) Objectives

10. Initial planning for UNHCR's 1996 Hong Kong programme proceeded along the line of the recommendations of the Sixth Steering Committee meeting on 16 March 1995. With simplified repatriation procedures, it is expected that as from mid-1995 the monthly return will be 1,800 Vietnamese, including those who will return under the government-conducted Orderly Return Programme. The promotion and implementation of repatriation under UNHCR auspices will continue into 1996.

11. All required steps to meet the target dates are being taken. This means completing resettlement of refugees, preparing appropriate durable solutions for the refugees who will not resettle, and the stepping-up of repatriation of those persons determined not to be refugees. Specific problems, such as that of Vietnamese illegal immigrants from China and persons claiming to have a nationality of a third country or regarded as non-nationals by Viet Nam will also be addressed.

12. In 1996, UNHCR will strengthen its role in monitoring the legislation and practice with respect to the determination of refugee status of non-Vietnamese and Vietnamese arriving in Hong Kong outside the CPA. A reduced level of legal staff will be maintained primarily to attend to protection issues and residual CPA eligibility issues.

(b) Proposed Budget for 1996

(i) General Programmes

13. Care and maintenance assistance in the form of individual/family support will be provided to refugees/asylum-seekers residing in Hong Kong. The initial budget has been established in the anticipation that durable solutions for Vietnamese refugees in Hong Kong will have been identified and that the caseload will decrease. However, UNHCR will closely monitor developments and modify the programme if necessary.

(ii) Special Programmes

14. In accordance with the targets set by the Sixth Steering Committee meeting in March 1995, it had been expected that most activities would diminish, but field operations and logistical support for repatriation movements would remain in place for the remaining cases pending for repatriation. The initial budget for Hong Kong was only to cover these activities for a limited period in 1996. In view of the latest legislative developments in the major resettlement country affecting the CPA, UNHCR will closely monitor developments in the region and in Hong Kong and may have to modify its programme and adjust the budgetary requirements to reflect actual needs.

(c) Implementing partners

15. The Hong Kong Government provides the land, infrastructure and management costs in the detention centres, while UNHCR funds the cost of care and maintenance and related services. In Pillar Point Refugee camp, UNHCR funds health care, education, social services, counselling, security and management costs, as well as food allowances for unemployed refugees and detoxification for drug addicts, in close cooperation with voluntary agencies.

16. The Agency for Volunteer Service provides manpower resources, primarily in the areas of repatriation, resettlement, education and social services. Other agencies are St. Stephen's Society, CARITAS, International Social Services, Christian Action (CA) and Médecins sans Frontières. UNHCR in the past years has not been able to raise sufficient funds for the care and maintenance programme in Hong Kong. As of the end of 1993, the Hong Kong Government has therefore borne from its own funds an estimated $ 126 million, for which it is asking to be reimbursed.

(d) Programme Delivery and Administrative Support Costs

17. Variations due to changes in budget parameters are not discussed in the subsequent analysis (Overview of UNHCR Activities, Part I (A/AC.96/845) refers).

(i) 1994 expenditure (all sources of funds)

18. The 1994 expenditure was lower than revised estimates mainly due to lower than expected expenditure for common staff costs. Expenditure for procurement of non-expendable property, such as handset radio equipment and fire fighting equipment to cope with demonstrations in the camps, was slightly higher than expected.

(ii) Revised 1995 requirements (all sources of funds)

19. The revised 1995 requirements are higher than initial estimates mainly due to extension of one international Field Officer post, which proved necessary due to the still high number of Vietnamese in Hong Kong.

(iii) Initial 1996 requirements (all sources of funds)

20. The 1996 requirements are lower than the 1995 revised requirements mainly due to the expected gradual scaling down of the operation in Hong Kong. During 1996, it is envisaged that a minimum number of protection staff will be maintained to attend only to UNHCR's statutory protection-related responsibilities. Appropriate staffing levels will be maintained to provide realistic support to care and maintenance, voluntary repatriation, resettlement and social services programmes, especially relating to protection problems in the camps.

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN HONG KONG

(in thousands of United States dollars)

1994	1995		1996	
AMOUNT OBLIGATED	ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1994 EXCOM	PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION	SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION
GENERAL PROGRAMMES (1)				
1,393.6	1,425.9	2,244.5	CARE AND MAINTENANCE	51.8
0.5 a/	–	–	LOCAL SETTLEMENT	–
275.5 b/	199.5	71.3	RESETTLEMENT	–
1,242.5	945.7	1,425.6	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	1,041.4
2,912.1	2,571.1	3,741.4	SUB–TOTAL OPERATIONS	1,093.2
271.0	319.8	367.0	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Overview Tables (Part II)	435.7
3,183.1	2,890.9	4,108.4	T O T A L (1)	1,528.9
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES (2)				
2.0	–	–	OTHER TRUST FUNDS	–
13,161.7	16,778.9	20,865.1	COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION	–
718.0	558.4	671.7	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	–
137.7	146.8	183.2	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Overview Tables (Part II)	–
14,019.4	17,484.1	21,720.0	T O T A L (2)	0.0
17,202.5	20,375.0	25,828.4	GRAND TOTAL (1+2)	1,528.9

a/ obligation incurred against Other Programmes
b/ of which US$ 489 incurred against Other Programmes

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

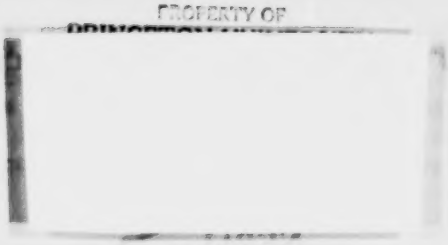
A/AC.96/846/Part II/5
31 July 1995

Original: ENGLISH

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME

Forty-sixth session

PROPERTY OF



UNHCR ACTIVITIES FINANCED BY VOLUNTARY FUNDS: REPORT FOR 1994-1995 AND PROPOSED PROGRAMMES AND BUDGET FOR 1996

PART II. ASIA AND OCEANIA

Section 5 - Nepal

(submitted by the High Commissioner)

GE.95-02383

NEPAL

CHINA
NEPAL
Kathmandu
BHUTAN
Kakarvitta
Biratnagar
Jhapa and Morang Districts
INDIA
BANGLADESH
The boundaries shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations
0
200
Km.
Capital
Town or village
Area of refugee concentration/influx

II.6 NEPAL

1. Beneficiary population

1. At 31 December 1994, 86,100 refugees and asylum-seekers from Bhutan, largely of ethnic Nepalese origin, were registered and assisted by UNHCR in eight camps in the south-eastern districts of Jhapa and Morang in Nepal. According to Nepalese authorities, another 17,100 asylum-seekers were living in Nepal unassisted. The assisted population is composed of entire family groups and presents a balanced proportion of both sexes of all age groups. Because extended family support is usually high there are virtually no unaccompanied minors. Most of the camp population is made up of subsistence farmers with little or no education, although there is a significant number of highly educated professionals and civil servants. Most children had previously attended schools in Bhutan and therefore are by and large literate. Eleven persons of various nationalities recognized under the UNHCR mandate represent the urban refugee group in Kathmandu. Furthermore, during the course of 1994, a total of 2,542 other refugees and asylum-seekers from neighbouring countries also were assisted by UNHCR while transiting through Nepal.

2. Developments in 1994 and 1995

2. As in 1993 and following the opening of a screening centre for asylum-seekers, the rate of influx remained largely stable with two to three new arrivals per day. Some 60 to 70 per cent of the new arrivals were granted refugee status mainly on family reunification grounds, while only a few persons were recognized on a strict protection basis. Bilateral negotiations between Nepal and Bhutan to find durable solutions for the camp population continued but, despite progress, no major breakthrough was achieved in the June 1994 and March and April 1995 meetings. While voluntary repatriation continues to be advocated as the most appropriate durable solution, the Office stands ready to support efforts that may be required in Nepal to work out durable solutions, mainly voluntary repatriation and, where feasible, local integration.

3. The outbreak of micronutrient deficiency in the camps during the last quarter of 1993 has been significantly reduced, thanks to the distribution of parboiled rice and blended food in the general ration. Both commodities were provided by WFP, while the daily provision of 100 grams of fresh vegetables per person continued. The food distribution has also been accompanied by an enhanced nutrition education campaign conducted in all camps. The difficulties experienced in the past years in finding the necessary quantities of shelter materials led to the use of a new roofing system using sandwich panels (made out of bamboo and plastic sheeting). The conversion of the temporary shelters to more durable shelters initiated in 1994 should be completed during the course of 1995.

4. The planned pilot projects for income-generation activities have been completed and an evaluation is being carried out by UNHCR and OXFAM to assess the impact of this project on the camp population. The degree of emphasis that should be placed on these activities in the second half of 1995 and in 1996 is also being

evaluated. A feasibility study to identify alternative cooking-fuels to replace kerosene was completed in the last quarter of 1994. The study showed that kerosene remains the best option for the programme in Nepal because its cost is highly subsidized by the Government, and therefore it will continue to be distributed. To develop energy savings, however, an enhancement of the present cooking system used in the camps is envisaged. The other main care and maintenance activities in the camps were implemented as planned.

5. The Refugee-impacted Areas Rehabilitation Programme (RARP) initiated in 1994 and designed to reduce the impact of the refugee influx on local communities through small development projects focusing on health, reafforestation, flood protection and road repairs will be completed during the third quarter of 1995. Meanwhile a project on Environmental Protection and Rehabilitation in Areas Hosting Asylum-seekers from Bhutan is being initiated with funds provided by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation (BMZ). This project will cover activities such as road rehabilitation, river training (which involves directing the flow of the river) and forest protection over a four-year period.

3. 1996 country programmes

(a) Objectives

6. The process of transferring responsibility to the refugees and asylum-seekers in the management of camp activities began in late 1994 will be pursued while shifting focus from rehabilitation activities to more human welfare-oriented activities. The main objectives are for refugees to take over as many routine camp operation and maintenance functions as possible from agencies, and to scale down contractual implementing arrangements accordingly. To adequately implement the above objectives, training activities for refugees and asylum-seekers will be strengthened. Refugee women will be further involved in camp management, decision-making and self-governance structures and their effective participation in all sectors of the assistance programme will be ensured. Community-based approaches and arrangements for the care of vulnerable groups will be further developed. Education for children with special needs/disabilities (e.g., blind children) will be expanded within the framework of the camp school system. Health services and facilities in the camps will be brought into closer conformity and compliance with government standards, criteria and policies prevailing in the two affected districts. To this end, the possibility of utilizing drugs and other health and family planning supplies and services available at reduced or no cost from the Government or United Nations agencies such as UNICEF and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) will be explored. UNHCR's direct operational role at camp levels will be further reduced, while planning, coordination, training and monitoring will be enhanced.

7. In order to counter tensions in camps, including camp politicization, efforts undertaken for community development and training of refugees and asylum-seekers in basic legal literacy, dispute resolution and leadership will be intensified so that in-camp problems can be resolved without external intervention; training activities on how to administer efficiently camps with due regard to refugee rights will be provided for government camp administrators and law

enforcement officials. Status determination procedures for new arrivals will be maintained through the effective presence of UNHCR at the border screening centre. Care and maintenance will be provided as in the past for asylum-seekers transiting through Nepal. For other individual cases under the mandate, the policy of providing only limited and needs-verified assistance will be maintained. Promotional activities will be pursued through refugee law workshops with judges, administrators and lawyers, including enhancing cooperation with the Law Faculty of Tribhuvan University in Kathmandu. Activities for implementation of the "Oslo recommendations" will be undertaken by the Nepalese UNHCR-NGO Partnership in Action (PARinAC) group.

(b) Proposed budgets for 1996

8. To achieve the above-mentioned objectives, and considering that the main activities such as shelter construction, water and sanitation will have been completed during 1995, the initial 1996 proposal under these sectors mainly covers only maintenance costs. Consequently, total requirements under care and maintenance are lower compared with the 1994 and 1995 levels. Requirements under the food sector have been maintained at the same level as the revised 1995 budget to account for the need to continue local procurement of fresh vegetables to prevent any further outbreaks of micronutrient deficiency among the refugee population. The reduction in the health sector is in line with the foreseen decentralization of health activities. The increased budget under the education sector will provide for 40,000 students and at the same time allow the implementation of special education activities for disabled children. The increase in agency operational support costs is mainly due to the intensification of training activities.

9. The sectoral breakdown for the initial and revised 1995 and the initial 1996 care and maintenance allocations is as follows (in dollars):

Sector	Initial 1995	Revised 1995	Initial 1996
Food	253,300	553,557	554,000
Transport	582,833	449,293	407,143
Domestic needs	1,252,196	933,192	932,667
Water	161,245	140,455	140,000
Sanitation	233,940	201,367	160,000
Health/nutrition	687,606	663,794	513,478
Shelter	191,931	397,821	194,000
Comm. services	327,987	289,741	302,020
Education	853,290	717,889	902,816
Crop production	24,690	12,326	12,000
Livestock	19,900	19,898	0
Forestry	75,410	75,189	74,000
Income generation	266,780	271,017	280,000
Legal assistance	189,915	209,219	196,090
Agency op. support	528,977	713,042	527,086
Total	5,650,000	5,647,800	5,195,300

(c) **Implementing partners**

10. The Home Ministry through the National Unit for the Coordination of Refugee Affairs (NUCRA) and the Refugee Coordination Unit (RCU) will continue to coordinate the programme for Bhutanese refugees and asylum-seekers and at the same time be responsible for camp administration and security, screening and registration of the camp population, and inter-agency/inter-ministerial coordination.

11. WFP will provide basic as well as supplementary food and transport up to extended delivery points. The Lutheran World Service (LWS) will be in charge of engineering works and camp infrastructure repair and maintenance as well as water and sanitation sectors.

12. The Nepal Red Cross Society will carry out food and non-food items distribution, including kerosene. Save the Children Fund (SCF)-UK will continue to implement the health sector, including the monitoring of supplementary feeding. As of January 1995, the Association of Medical Doctors for All (AMDA) has taken over the indoor health care services in Beldangi camps from SCF-UK as implementing partner and will continue to provide these services in 1996.

13. OXFAM will carry out non-formal literacy classes and income-generation activities. CARITAS-Nepal, with the support of Agency for Personnel Service Overseas (APSO), will be responsible for primary and secondary education. The Ministry of Soil and Conservation will be in charge of environmental protection in the areas surrounding the camps.

14. Social counselling activities will be ensured by the Centre for Victims of Torture (CVICT). The Home Ministry, through NUCRA and RCU, will also be responsible for the implementation of the developmental activities under the project on Environmental Protection and Rehabilitation in Areas Hosting Asylum-seekers from Bhutan.

(d) **Programme Delivery and Administrative Support Costs**

15. Variations due to changes in budget parameters are not discussed in the subsequent analysis (Overview of UNHCR Activities, Part I(A/AC.96/845), refers).

(i) **1994 expenditure (all sources of funds)**

16. The 1994 expenditure was higher than revised estimates mainly under common staff costs due to higher rates of staff rotation.

(ii) **Revised 1995 requirements (all sources of funds)**

17. The revised 1995 requirements are higher than initial estimates due to the creation of two local General Service posts. Non-staff costs are not significantly different from initial estimates.

(iii) **Initial 1996 requirements (all sources of funds)**

18. The 1996 initial requirements are not significantly different from the 1995 revised requirements. Staffing levels and non-staff costs have been retained at the same level as in 1995. Provision is made for the replacement of two vehicles for Sub-Office Jhapa.

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN NEPAL

(in thousands of United States dollars)

1994	1995		1996	
AMOUNT OBLIGATED	ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1994 EXCOM	PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION	SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION
GENERAL PROGRAMMES (1)				
4,976.6 a/	5,650.0	5,647.8	CARE AND MAINTENANCE	5,195.3
3.4 b/	–	–	LOCAL SETTLEMENT	–
1,293.9	1,072.8	1,118.1	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	1,139.0
6,273.9	6,722.8	6,765.9	SUB-TOTAL OPERATIONS	6,334.3
143.4	132.2	145.4	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Overview Tables (Part II)	142.9
6,417.3	6,855.0	6,911.3	T O T A L (1)	6,477.2
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES (2)				
276.0	–	8.8	OTHER TRUST FUNDS PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	8.8
99.2	83.0	33.0	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT Junior Professional Officer See Overview Tables (Part II)	33.0
375.2	83.0	41.8	T O T A L (2)	41.8
6,792.5	6,938.0	6,953.1	GRAND TOTAL (1+2)	6,519.0

a/ of which US$ 3,027 incurred against Other Programmes
b/ obligation incurred against Other Programmes

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.96/846/Part II/6
9 August 1995

Original: ENGLISH

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME

Fifty-sixth session

PROPERTY OF

UNHCR ACTIVITIES FINANCED BY VOLUNTARY FUNDS: REPORT FOR 1994-1995 AND PROPOSED PROGRAMMES AND BUDGET FOR 1996

PART II. ASIA AND OCEANIA

Section 6 - Philippines

(submitted by the High Commissioner)

GE.95-02464

II.6 PHILIPPINES

1. Beneficiary population

1. At 31 December 1994, 3,758 Vietnamese received material assistance from UNHCR comprising 2,663 persons determined not to be refugees, 428 persons transiting in the Philippines found not to qualify for the United States Orderly Departure Programme, 191 refugees and 476 resettlement processing cases from camps in Hong Kong. There was also one remaining Cambodian refugee.

2. In addition, there were some 400 non-Indo-Chinese refugees and asylum-seekers of various nationalities residing in Manila and other localities in the provinces of Baguio, Quezon and Mindanao.

2. Developments in 1994 and 1995

(a) Vietnamese

3. Following the recommendations of the Fifth and Sixth Steering Committee of the International Conference on Indo-Chinese Refugees, an end-1995 target date was set for the termination of the Comprehensive Plan of Action for Indo-Chinese Refugees (CPA). UNHCR Branch Office in Manila oriented its counselling activities towards voluntary repatriation of the screened-out Vietnamese, and the accelerated resettlement of the screened-in Vietnamese. The assistance programme was further rationalized and camps were consolidated consistent with the reduced caseload. The Regional Resettlement Transit Centre (RRTC) and the Philippines Refugee Processing Centre (PRPC) in Morang, Bataan district, were officially closed by the end of 1994. The population in Bataan was transferred to the Philippines First Asylum Camp (PFAC) in Puerto Princesa on Palawan Island and to the Philippines Refugee Transit Centre (PRTC) in Manila. A total of 775 screened-out Vietnamese applied for voluntary repatriation and 761 persons left the Philippines during 1994, representing the highest rate of repatriation since the voluntary repatriation programme's inception in 1989.

4. In order to encourage voluntary repatriation of screened-out Vietnamese to achieve completion of the CPA by 31 December 1995, the Government of the Philippines concluded a Memorandum of Understanding for the Orderly Return Programme with the Government of Viet Nam on 5 February 1995. A total of 619 refugees departed from the Philippines for resettlement in third countries during 1994. Another 1,140 Vietnamese, who had been transferred from Hong Kong, were resettled from the Philippines.

5. From January to the end of May 1995, 113 screened-out Vietnamese voluntarily repatriated to their country of origin. Since this time the majority of candidates for voluntary repatriation have withdrawn their applications in the expectation that the draft legislation being proposed by the United States Congress might result in further resettlement possibilities to that country.

6. An Executive Order was issued in May 1995 to grant permanent residence to Vietnamese nationals married to Philippine citizens and to their children and relatives who were evacuated by the Philippines Navy from Viet Nam between 1975 and 1978.

(b) Non-Indo-Chinese

7. In the case of assistance for non-Indo-Chinese refugees, the initial allocation was made on the assumption that 186 non-Indo-Chinese refugees and their dependants would require assistance in the form of a subsistence allowance, rent, education and health care for an average of nine months. Due to the difficulties experienced by refugees in finding employment, payment of a subsistence allowance had to be extended from nine to twelve months, which resulted an upward revision to the initial allocation.

8. UNHCR remains actively involved in the promotion of refugee law and humanitarian principles in the Philippines. In collaboration with the Refugee Services Philippines (RSP), the UNHCR Branch Office in Manila organized a national conference on Refugee Issues and Prospects: the Government of the Philippines Experiences, which was attended by local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), members of academic and human rights groups, and government officials. The recommendations of this forum were submitted to the Government of the Philippines for consideration.

3. 1996 country programmes

(a) Objectives

9. In view of recent withdrawals of voluntary repatriation applicants and the marked decrease in new applications it is most unlikely that the target set by the Steering Committee to conclude CPA activities by the end of 1995 can be met. Consequently, it cannot be ruled out that care and maintenance assistance for screened-out Vietnamese in the Philippines will be required into 1996. However, efforts will continue to further encourage voluntary repatriation of screened-out Vietnamese and to accelerate the resettlement of Vietnamese refugees.

10. Assistance will continue to be provided to non-Indo-Chinese refugees and asylum-seekers. The Branch Office in Manila will continue to pursue with the Government of the Philippines the implementation of the recommendations made during the National Conference on Refugee Issues and Prospects in November 1994.

(b) Proposed budgets for 1996

(i) General Programmes

11. **Care and maintenance**: Care and maintenance assistance in the form of a subsistence allowance will be provided for 200 non-Indo-Chinese refugees and their 109 dependants to cover the cost of food, accommodation, health care, education and vocational training.

(ii) Special Programmes

12. **CPA**: Activities under the CPA in the first-asylum countries are scheduled to be completed by the end of 1995. UNHCR is actively pursuing its programme activities according to the recommendations of the Fifth and Sixth Steering Committee to phase out its assistance under the CPA arrangements on 31 December 1995 and, thus, no budgetary provision has been planned for assistance under the CPA in 1996.

13. Depending on the rate of the implementation of voluntary repatriation and the Orderly Return Programme in the second half of 1995, and further deliberations of the Steering Committee, additional funding for 1996 may be required to cover the costs of care and maintenance assistance to the remaining screened-out caseload.

(c) Implementing partners

14. The Government of the Philippines through the Western Command of the Armed Forces (WESCOM) and the Task Force on International Refugee Assistance and Administration (TFIRAA) are the main implementing partners in Palawan and the Philippines Refugees Transit Centre in Manila, respectively. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is responsible for all medical examinations and travel of refugees for resettlement to third countries and for the voluntary repatriation of the screened-out Vietnamese. The International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) and the International Social Service (ISS) are providing repatriation counselling and education. These agencies will phase out their activities in June 1995.

15. The Community and Family Services International (CFSI) provides mental health care and counselling in the Transit Centre in Manila.

16. The RSP implements the non-Indo-Chinese refugee programme in urban areas on behalf of UNHCR.

(d) Programme Delivery and Administrative Support Costs

17. Variations due to changes in budget parameters are not discussed in the subsequent analysis (Overview of UNHCR Activities, Part I (A/AC.96/845) refers).

(i) 1994 expenditure (all sources of funds)

18. The 1994 expenditure was lower than revised estimates mainly due to under-expenditure in all chapters of the budget, most significantly under their travel budget. This reflects gradual scaling down of the operation in the Philippines. The PRPC in Bataan was closed at the end of 1994.

(ii) Revised 1995 requirements (all sources of funds)

19. The revised 1995 requirements are not significantly different from initial estimates.

(iii) Initial 1996 requirements (all sources of funds)

20. The 1996 initial requirements are lower, mainly due to the gradual scaling down of the UNHCR operation in the Philippines.

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN THE PHILIPPINES

(in thousands of United States dollars)

1994	1995		1996	
AMOUNT OBLIGATED	ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1994 EXCOM	PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION	SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION
GENERAL PROGRAMMES (1)				
507.9	324.2	578.3	CARE AND MAINTENANCE	578.3
4.3 a/	–	–	VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION	–
0.3 a/	–	–	LOCAL SETTLEMENT	–
807.5 b/	1,045.2	1,033.4	RESETTLEMENT	–
688.3	689.7	637.8	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	636.7
2,008.3	2,059.1	2,249.5	SUB-TOTAL OPERATIONS	1,215.0
50.4	55.0	70.9	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Overview Tables (Part II)	79.8
2,058.7	2,114.1	2,320.4	TOTAL (1)	1,294.8
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES (2)				
4,850.7	1,424.3	1,544.2	COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION	–
142.6	112.4	225.9	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	–
–	–	–	OTHER TRUST FUNDS	–
97.6	127.2	50.0	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT Junior Professional Officer See Overview Tables (Part II)	50.0
5,090.9	1,663.9	1,820.1	TOTAL (2)	50.0
7,149.6	3,778.0	4,140.5	GRAND TOTAL (1+2)	1,344.8

a/ obligation incurred against Other Programmes
b/ of which US$ 12,599 incurred against Other Programmes

UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

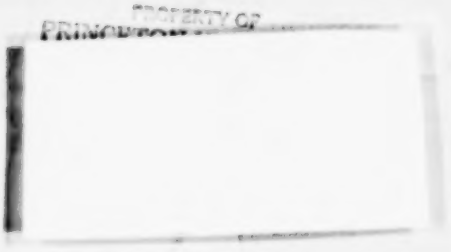
A/AC.96/846/Part II/7
2 August 1995

Original: ENGLISH

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME

Forty-sixth session

PROPERTY OF
PRINCETON



UNHCR ACTIVITIES FINANCED BY VOLUNTARY FUNDS: REPORT FOR 1994-1995 AND PROPOSED PROGRAMMES AND BUDGET FOR 1996

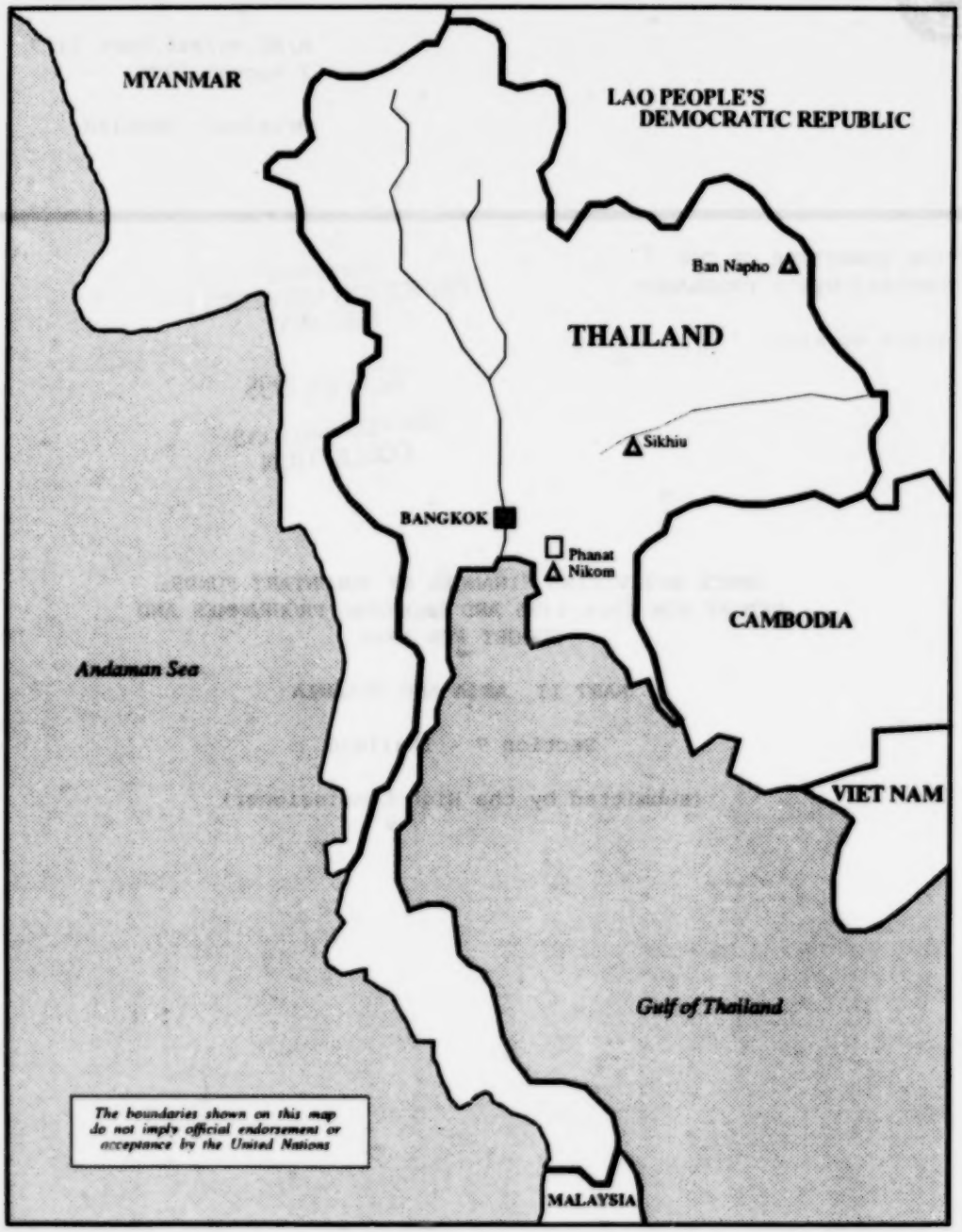
PART II. ASIA AND OCEANIA

Section 7 - Thailand

(submitted by the High Commissioner)

GE.95-02451

THAILAND


MYANMAR
LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
Ban Napho
THAILAND
Sikhiu
BANGKOK
Phanat Nikom
CAMBODIA
Andaman Sea
VIET NAM
Gulf of Thailand
The boundaries shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations
MALAYSIA
0
200
Km.
Capital
Camp or holding centre for refugees or displaced persons
Transit centre

II.7 THAILAND

1. Beneficiary population

1. At 31 December 1994 there were 18,060 Indo-Chinese refugees, asylum-seekers and screened-out asylum-seekers assisted by UNHCR, which represents a more than 50 per cent reduction compared to the end of 1993, when there were 36,600 such persons. The Indo-Chinese population comprised 11,924 Lao, 6,121 Vietnamese and 15 Cambodians. The Vietnamese population consisted of 4,556 boat people and 1,565 other Vietnamese, while the Lao population comprised 10,393 highland and 1,531 lowland Lao. The Indo-Chinese population was sheltered in the Ban Napho, Phanat Nikhom and Sikhiu refugee camps. In addition, 2,928 non-Indo-Chinese, the vast majority of whom were from Myanmar (2,550), were living in urban areas and assisted by UNHCR, with the exception of a small group of about 175 Myanmar refugees who lived in a semi-open camp, the so-called safe area. A further 80,000 Myanmar refugees, 97 per cent of whom belong to mainly Karen but also Mon and Karenni ethnic minority groups, were stranded on the border between Thailand and Myanmar and were not receiving UNHCR assistance.

2. At 31 May 1995, the number of Indo-Chinese in Thailand had decreased to 13,038 (7,541 Lao, 5,488 Vietnamese and 9 Cambodians). Over half of the Lao caseload are children, about 21 per cent are women and about 23 per cent are men. Of the Vietnamese caseload, men constitute about 45 per cent, women 25 per cent, and children 30 per cent. The number of non-Indo-Chinese assisted by UNHCR remained rather stable, at 2,991, of whom 2,632 were from Myanmar. Single young men comprise some 70 per cent of the Myanmar urban caseload. With regard to the refugees along the border between Myanmar and Thailand, their number rose to 87,119 as a result of Myanmar Army attacks on the Karen border encampments. This border population is comprised of about 40 per cent children, 30 per cent women and 30 per cent men.

2. Developments in 1994 and 1995

3. As a result of activities by the Myanmar Army, the student dissident headquarters was overrun in December 1994, followed some weeks later by the fall of Manerplaw (the Headquarters of the Karen National Union (KNU) and of the various ethnic/political alliances) in January 1995 and Kawmoorah (the principal military base of the KNU) in February.

4. These developments led to the influx of 8,000 to 10,000 Karen and Burmese refugees into Thailand. They are currently being accommodated in sites along the Thai border in Mae Hong Son, Tak and Kanchanaburi provinces. These people are being assisted by the Thai Government and local and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The Government has stated that the refugees will be provided with temporary protection in Thailand until such time as conditions in Myanmar are conducive to their voluntary return.

5. UNHCR, for its part, has increased the number of missions to the Thai/Myanmar border in order to better monitor the protection and welfare of the refugees. These missions have been facilitated by the Thai Government, with whom an ongoing dialogue has been maintained. The 87,119 Myanmar nationals who were along

the Thai/Myanmar border or on the Thai side of the border as of 31 May 1995 continue to receive assistance through the Burmese Border Consortium, which is composed of five NGOs.

6. Regarding the "safe area", it is envisaged to slightly increase its capacity during 1995 to better meet the assistance and protection needs of the beneficiaries.

7. Two new influxes of Cambodian refugees occurred in March and April 1994. In both cases the refugees were given humanitarian aid for a few days by the Thai authorities and were subsequently returned to Cambodia on the grounds that the hostilities had ceased. Contrary to events surrounding the first influx, UNHCR was given access to the second influx, was able to provide humanitarian assistance and was satisfied that the return was voluntary and without risk.

8. The sixth meeting of the Steering Committee on 16 March 1995 confirmed the end of 1995 as the target date to complete CPA (Comprehensive Plan of Action for Indo-Chinese Refugees) activities for Vietnamese and Lao in Thailand, which has set the pattern for increased voluntary repatriation. The Lao repatriation has been enhanced further through a successful seventh tripartite meeting between the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Thailand and UNHCR which took place in Pattaya, Thailand, from 26 to 29 July 1994, followed by two tripartite working meetings in November 1994 and March 1995. The eighth tripartite meeting will take place in Lao People's Democratic Republic during 1995.

9. During 1994, no new arrivals were registered for Lao and Indo-Chinese; 2,328 Vietnamese and a record number of 5,172 Lao repatriated voluntarily.

10. During the first five months of 1995, only 384 Vietnamese returned to Viet Nam while 1,672 Lao returned to the Lao People's Democratic Republic. The present difficulties in promoting durable solutions for the remaining Indo-Chinese caseload in Thailand, which result from recent developments in the United States, will make it difficult to reach the objectives agreed upon during the last Steering Committee.

11. Within the framework of camp consolidation, the Phanat Nikom camp is scheduled for closure in mid 1995.

3. 1996 country programmes

(a) Objectives

(i) Indo-Chinese

12. Within the framework of the CPA, emphasis will continue to be placed on the successful implementation of durable solutions for Lao and Vietnamese. Despite the fact that the target date for the completion of the CPA is the end of 1995, it is anticipated that a residual caseload of up to 4,900 Vietnamese and up to 5,000 Lao may still require UNHCR assistance in early 1996 pending their voluntary

repatriation during the course of 1996. However, these objectives may have to be revised later in view of the delays that the introduction of a draft bill in the United States has recently caused to repatriation movements, particularly of Vietnamese.

13. Meanwhile the implementation of necessary services in such sectors as food, water, health and education will continue to be maintained at acceptable levels. There are no plans, however, for the construction of any new buildings, water supplies or other types of infrastructure. Efforts will continue to be made to direct activities, services and training toward voluntary repatriation. Efforts will also be made to promote the participation and involvement of women as refugee representatives and to provide information and training according to women's needs.

14. Lao and Vietnamese will be sheltered in the Ban Naphc and Sikhiu camps only, due to the closure of Phanat Nikhom camp in mid 1995 within the framework of camp consolidation.

(ii) Non-Indo-Chinese

15. It is assumed that, despite the unstable situation in Myanmar, there will be no new arrivals of refugees/asylum-seekers. Limited provisions have been made for assistance needs of the Myanmar caseload in the "safe area" in Ratchaburi province; these may be expanded. In addition, UNHCR will continue to assist the small urban caseload of non-Indo-Chinese refugees and asylum-seekers. Assistance will include a monthly allowance, medical, social services and mental health/counselling services, education and vocational skills training.

(b) Proposed budgets for 1996

16. Budgets presented for 1996 have been prepared based on the assumption that the end of 1995 is the target date for the completion of CPA activities. Budgetary adjustments may be required depending on the need to revise plans in light of recent developments.

(i) General Programmes

17. Care and maintenance for Indo-Chinese will continue throughout 1996 pending the successful implementation of durable solutions. The estimated number of Indo-Chinese beneficiaries in 1996 will be 4,800.

18. The small urban caseload of non-Indo-Chinese will continue to receive assistance that includes monthly living allowances, medical and mental health/counselling services, education and vocational training.

19. The Myanmar refugees sheltered in the "safe area" will also benefit from limited UNHCR assistance. The estimated number of beneficiaries will be 2,900 in 1996.

20. The breakdown of care and maintenance assistance in 1995 and 1996 is as follows (in dollars):

Sector	Initial 1995	Revised 1995	Initial 1996
Food	508,841	359,377	227,642
Transport	221,181	209,235	225,042
Domestic needs	2,855,889	2,836,593	2,782,792
Water	89,803	76,675	102,190
Sanitation	100,670	159,163	240,707
Health	666,731	569,554	543,429
Shelter	267,561	241,430	218,277
Community services	134,479	79,348	137,597
Education	158,855	100,591	89,428
Legal assistance	49,985	69,561	84,824
Agency op. support	928,405	493,173	1,228,972
Total	5,982,400	5,194,700	5,880,900

(c) Implementing Partners

21. The Operations Centre for Displaced Persons (OCDP) of the Thai Ministry of Interior (MOI) is UNHCR's principal implementing partner. Voluntary agencies which work in the refugee camps sign agreements with and receive funding directly from MOI. Regarding UNHCR-funded projects, there are seven voluntary agencies which are funded by UNHCR, with the agreements/funding being made first between UNHCR to MOI, and then made between MOI and the voluntary agencies. These seven agencies are: Catholic Office for Emergency Relief and Refugees (COERR), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Médecins sans Frontières (MSF), Save the Children Federation-USA, the Thai Red Cross Society, ZOA Refugee Care Netherlands and the American Refugee Committee.

22. As far as the non-Indo-Chinese caseload is concerned, the Bangkok urban caseload receives assistance through the Foundation in Support of Refugee Assistance and Programme in Thailand (FISRAPT) a UNHCR-funded Thai voluntary agency.

(d) Programme Delivery and Administrative Support Costs

23. Variations due to changes in budget parameters are not discussed in the subsequent analysis (Overview of UNHCR Activities, Part I (A/AC.96/845) refers).

(i) 1994 expenditure (all sources of funds)

24. The 1994 expenditure was lower than revised estimates mainly due to the gradual scaling down of UNHCR operations in Thailand, which resulted in a number of post reductions. In addition, several posts became vacant in advance of proposed

discontinuation dates. There was a lower than expected expenditure in travel, general operating expenses, and office supplies and materials due to the accelerated scaling down of the office.

(ii) Revised 1995 requirements (all sources of funds)

25. The revised 1995 requirements are lower than initial estimates mainly because of further scaling down of the office. The Phanat Nikhom camp is scheduled to close by the end of June 1995 and nine posts will be discontinued.

(iii) Initial 1996 requirements (all sources of funds)

26. The 1996 initial requirements are lower than 1995 revised due to the expected closure of Ban Napho and Sikhiu camps. A further reduction of eleven posts is projected for the end of June 1996.

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN THAILAND

(in thousands of United States dollars)

1994	1995		1996	
AMOUNT OBLIGATED	ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1994 EXCOM	PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION	SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION
GENERAL PROGRAMMES (1)				
5,423.5	5,982.4	5,194.7	CARE AND MAINTENANCE	5,880.9
6.8 a/	–	–	VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION	–
19.0 a/	–	–	LOCAL SETTLEMENT	–
2,330.8	2,253.5	1,829.4	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	1,651.8
7,780.1	8,235.9	7,024.1	SUB–TOTAL OPERATIONS	7,532.7
408.3	342.9	407.4	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Overview Tables (Part II)	361.1
8,188.4	8,578.8	7,431.5	TOTAL (1)	7,893.8
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES (2)				
			CAMBODIA REPATRIATION	
9.1	71.5	14.8	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	9.8
47.7	–	–	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Overview Tables (Part II)	–
3,734.8	1,766.9	2,031.6	COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION	–
398.6	327.2	488.2	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	220.1
			OTHER TRUST FUNDS	
35.8	–	–	Various Assistance	–
1,753.3			Extra–budgetary food	
			SRI LANKA RETURNEE PROGRAMME	
103.5	150.5	100.9	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Overview Tables (Part II)	45.4
51.0	35.0	18.5	Junior Professional Officer See Overview Tables (Part II)	18.5
6,133.8	2,351.1	2,654.0	TOTAL (2)	293.8
14,322.2	10,929.9	10,085.5	GRAND TOTAL (1+2)	8,187.6

a/ obligation incurred against Other Programmes

UN

UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

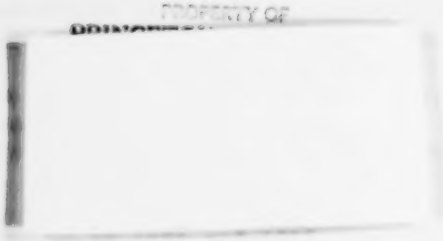
A/AC.96/846/Part II/8
31 July 1995

Original: ENGLISH

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME

Forty-sixth session

PROPERTY OF



UNHCR ACTIVITIES FINANCED BY VOLUNTARY FUNDS: REPORT FOR 1994-1995 AND PROPOSED PROGRAMMES AND BUDGET FOR 1996

PART II. ASIA AND OCEANIA

Section 8 - Viet Nam

(submitted by the High Commissioner)

GE.95-02349

II.8 VIET NAM

1. Beneficiary population

1. At 31 December 1994, almost 13,000 Vietnamese asylum-seekers had returned to Viet Nam from first-asylum countries in South-East Asia, Hong Kong and Japan. Among them 357 persons returned under the Orderly Return Programme (ORP) from Hong Kong. From the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan of Action for Indo-Chinese Refugees (CPA) in 1989 until the end of 1994, 69,240 persons returned to Viet Nam. Another 3,805 persons returned to the country between 1 January and the end of May 1995.

2. In addition, some 40,000 Cambodians of ethnic Vietnamese origin have settled spontaneously in the eight provinces in southern Viet Nam.

3. Among the Cambodian refugees 50 per cent were adult males, 35 per cent adult females and some 15 per cent were children. The Vietnamese returnees comprised 50 per cent adult males, 30 per cent adult females and 20 per cent children.

2. Developments in 1994 and 1995

4. A total of 5,049 Cambodian refugees in Son Be Province and Ho Chi Minh City were officially granted local settlement in Viet Nam in 1994. Regulations governing their long-term residence are being drawn up by the local authorities. UNHCR assistance for this group of refugees was completed and phased out on 30 September 1994.

5. UNHCR continued to provide assistance to the Vietnamese returnees in the form of cash grants, vocational training and rehabilitation/improvement of basic infrastructure in the areas where the returnees are concentrated.

6. UNHCR financed 109 micro projects in 43 provinces during 1994.

7. Owing to the slow rate of return of Vietnamese nationals from countries of asylum in the region, the original plan to receive 30,000 persons in 1995 will be adjusted downward to 15,000.

8. The Government of Viet Nam concluded Memoranda of Understanding on the ORP with the Government of Malaysia and the Government of the Philippines in January and February 1995 respectively. UNHCR is a party to these memoranda and has a facilitating function within the context of its mandate and designated role.

9. During 1994, UNHCR increased its monitoring capacity and seven international staff were assigned as monitoring officers to ensure safe return and to facilitate reintegration of the Vietnamese returnees into their former communities.

10. Repeated allegations of mistreatment were investigated and no substantiated cases of persecution or serious harassment were found. The Government of Viet Nam has complied with the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding signed with UNHCR in 1988.

11. A group of prominent representatives from US non-governmental organizations (NGOs) visited returnees in Viet Nam in early 1995 and were satisfied with their reintegration and general situation. A major effort was made to accelerate the return of unaccompanied minors before the phase-out of the Nordic Assistance to Repatriated Vietnamese (NARV) at the end of April 1995. A total of 3,830 minors were assisted while another 344 minors have not yet returned from the first-asylum countries, mainly Hong Kong.

3. 1996 country programmes

(a) Objectives

12. Pursuant to the recommendation of the fifth and the sixth Steering Committee of the International Conference on Indo-Chinese Refugees, UNHCR will continue to monitor and provide assistance to Vietnamese nationals who return from the camps in the first-asylum countries in South-East Asia, Japan and Hong Kong.

13. The assistance will include cash grants and contributions to micro-projects to rehabilitate and improve infrastructure in the areas that receive the returnees.

14. The monitoring of the Vietnamese who have already returned and those who will do so early next year will be the main activity of UNHCR in Viet Nam in 1996.

(b) Proposed budget for 1996

(i) Special Programmes

15. **CPA**: Due to recent developments in a major resettlement country, the prospects for voluntary repatriation in 1995 are now unclear. The plan for 1996 will therefore have to be tentative and adjustments may be made. Given that the CPA in the first-asylum countries (except Hong Kong) should have been completed by the end of 1995, the initial budget proposal is based on covering monitoring costs and contributions to micro-projects to improve the quality of life for the returnees. Depending on developments and the rate of implementation of voluntary repatriation and the ORP in the second half of 1995, and possible changes in the completion date of the CPA, the 1996 budget may need to be revised at a later stage.

(c) Implementing partners

16. UNHCR continues to provide reintegration assistance through the Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs to various provinces to which the Vietnamese have returned. Through the Ministry of Interior, UNHCR provides financial assistance to cover the costs of delegations sent to interview Vietnamese

in the camps in first-asylum countries in South-East Asia, Hong Kong and Japan. Care and maintenance costs of returnees in transit centres in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City and transport costs of returnees from transit centres to the provinces and districts of origin are also covered. Care for unaccompanied minors was provided through NARV. This programme came to an end on 30 April 1995. The Women's Union of Hai Phong implemented Vocational Training for Women. The Viet Nam Red Cross provided assistance to mental health cases and other vulnerable returnees. The European Community-International Programme (ECIP) provided reintegration assistance through the implementation of credit schemes, vocational training and job creation activities, which came to an end, as scheduled, on 30 November 1994. A limited bridging credit scheme programme was continued after 30 November until the end of June 1995. The Japan International Volunteer Centre (JIVC) completed the project for an automobile workshop and training centre in Hai Phong and the facility was handed over to the Government at the end of 1994. In 1995, JIVC will complete its three-year programme for auto-mechanic and vocational training in Ben Tre province.

(d) Programme Delivery and Administrative Support Costs

17. Variations due to changes in budget parameters are not discussed in the subsequent analysis (Overview of UNHCR Activities, Part I (A/AC.96/845) refers).

(i) 1994 expenditure (all sources of funds)

18. The 1994 expenditure was lower than the revised estimates mainly due to vacancies in several posts in both Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

(ii) Revised 1995 requirements (all sources of funds)

19. The revised 1995 requirements are lower than initial estimates mainly because of the discontinuation of a Programme Officer post and two General Service posts. Non-staff costs are not significantly different from initial estimates.

(iii) Initial 1996 requirements (all sources of funds)

20. The 1996 requirements are lower than the 1995 revised requirements principally due to gradual scaling down of the operation in the ongoing activities of the Office in Viet Nam. Staffing levels and non-staff costs are marginally lower than in 1995. A reduced provision is made for procurement of non-expendable property.

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN VIET NAM

(in thousands of United States dollars)

1994	1995		1996	
AMOUNT OBLIGATED	ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1994 EXCOM	PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION	SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION
GENERAL PROGRAMMES (1)				
0.5 a/	–	–	VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION	–
347.4	–	–	LOCAL SETTLEMENT	–
2.0	–	–	RESETTLEMENT	–
349.9	0.0	0.0	SUB-TOTAL OPERATIONS	0.0
349.9	0.0	0.0	TOTAL (1)	0.0
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES (2)				
10,761.7	11,705.9	16,002.7	COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION	2,000.0
1,563.2	1,535.5	1,430.9	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	1,316.0
27.5	246.4	238.9	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Overview Tables (Part II)	224.8
–	–	–	OTHER TRUST FUNDS	–
45.3	55.0	–	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT Junior Professional Officer See Overview Tables (Part II)	–
12,397.7	13,542.8	17,672.5	TOTAL (2)	3,540.8
12,747.6	13,542.8	17,672.5	GRAND TOTAL (1+2)	3,540.8

a/ obligation incurred against Other Programmes

UN

UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.96/846/Part II/9
14 August 1995

Original: ENGLISH

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME

Forty-sixth session

PROPERTY OF

UNHCR ACTIVITIES FINANCED BY VOLUNTARY FUNDS: REPORT FOR 1994-1995 AND PROPOSED PROGRAMMES AND BUDGET FOR 1996

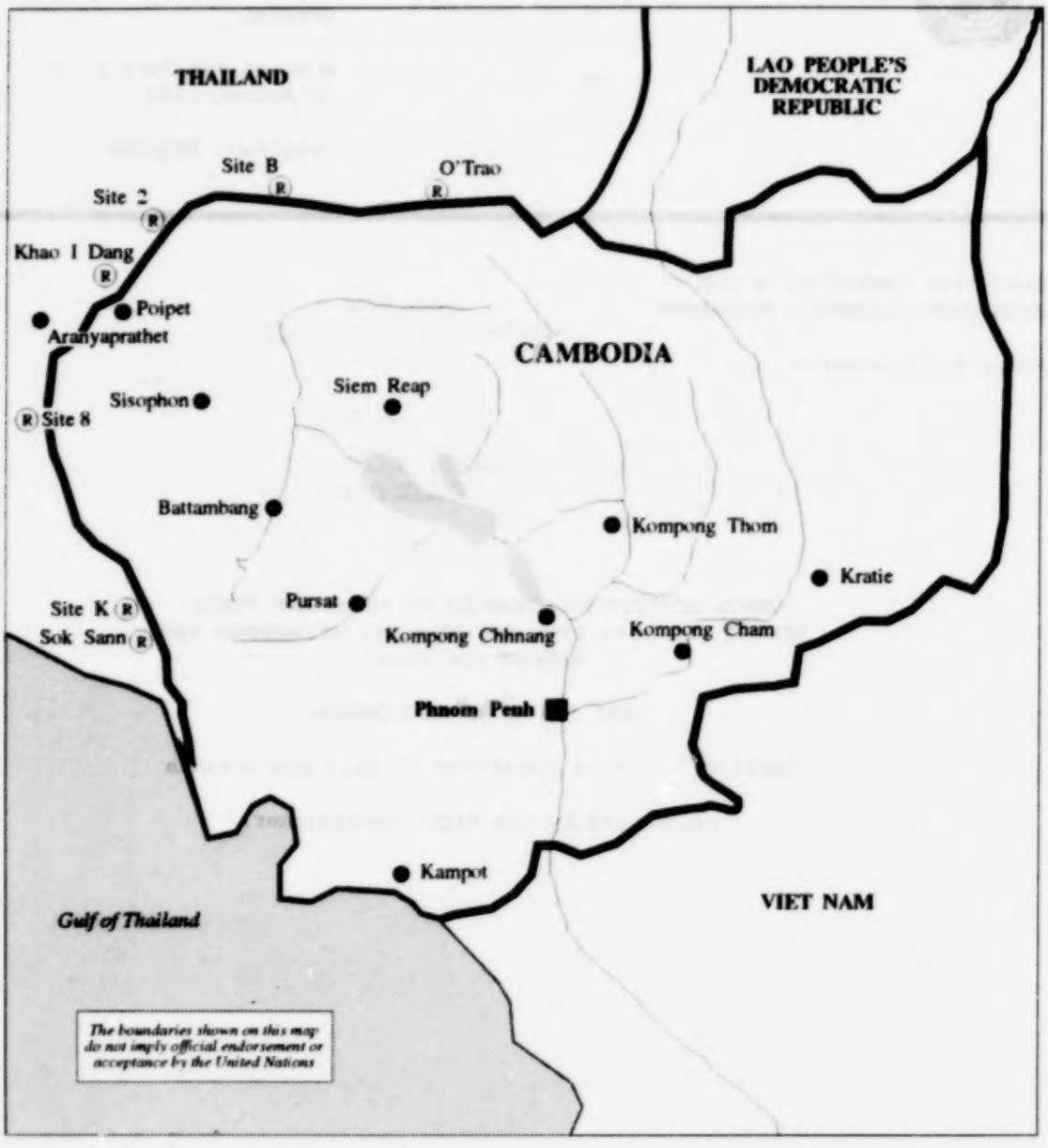
PART II. ASIA AND OCEANIA

Section 9 - Other Countries in Asia and Oceania

(submitted by the High Commissioner)

GE.95-02528

CAMBODIA


THAILAND
LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
Site B
O'Trao
Site 2
Khao I Dang
Poipet
Aranyaprathet
CAMBODIA
Siem Reap
Sisophon
Site 8
Battambang
Kompong Thom
Kratie
Site K
Sok Sann
Pursat
Kompong Chhnang
Kompong Cham
Phnom Penh
Kampot
VIET NAM
Gulf of Thailand
The boundaries shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations
Capital
Town or village
Camps or holding centres for refugees or displaced persons (now closed as a result of repatriation)
0
100
Km.

II.9 OTHER COUNTRIES IN ASIA AND OCEANIA

1. This section covers UNHCR activities in Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanamr, Papua New Guinea, Singapore and Sri Lanka.

A. Cambodia

2. With the completion in mid 1993 of the mass repatriation of over 360,000 Cambodians, the UNHCR operation in Cambodia had shifted by the end of 1994 from a programme benefiting mainly returnees to a more complex operation involving not only former returnees but also other persons of concern to UNHCR. The Office continued to monitor the situation of the returnees, and also assisted some 113,100 internally displaced persons and monitored the condition of some 3,000 ethnic Vietnamese stranded on the border with Viet Nam.

3. During 1994, UNHCR in Cambodia continued to monitor closely and provide adequate support to vulnerable returnees. Assistance measures included the strengthening of community facilities, the promotion of self-sufficiency for vulnerable individuals and families through counselling, income generation activities, and complementary relief support where essential. The largest single grouping among the vulnerable categories covered by this "safety net" was female-headed households, for whom longer term solutions remain elusive.

4. Since the start of the repatriation programme in early 1992, UNHCR funds have been used to clear, plough, harrow and seed over 17,000 hectares of agricultural land for returnee families, and to cover the cost of land titling for agricultural and domestic plots. The shortage of arable land remains a major impediment to the successful reintegration of those returnees who chose the land option at the time of the mass repatriation. In partnership with the Government of Cambodia, the UNDP/Office for Project Services Cambodian Resettlement and Reintegration (CARERE) project, World Food Programme (WFP) and other agencies, UNHCR coordinated efforts to identify and secure legal land titles for landless returnees.

5. A permanent field presence in Battambang and a semi-permanent presence in Siem Reap and Banteay Meanchey has allowed UNHCR to maintain a monitoring and intervention capacity for returnees and other persons of concern, whilst advocating with government, local and international agencies to assist this population. Due to the continuation of sporadic conflict between government forces and the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea (NADK), rural populations, including large numbers of ex-returnees, continue to be displaced from their villages and thus require humanitarian assistance.

6. In line with the limited scope and duration of UNHCR's mandate and in recognition of the presence of CARERE and other agencies with longer term development mandates, UNHCR's permanent field presence will be discontinued in mid-1995. However, UNHCR Branch Office staff will continue to monitor the situation through regular visits to the area and will collaborate closely with the Government of Cambodia, WFP and the Cambodian Red Cross (CRC), together with other concerned United Nations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to ensure that displaced

persons, and in particular vulnerable returnees, receive essential relief assistance. In view of prevailing volatile circumstances UNHCR maintains a former reception centre in Sisophon as a temporary site to accommodate up to 4,000 displaced persons.

7. On 26 August 1994, the National Assembly of Cambodia adopted an Immigration Law that made no explicit mention of refugees. This has prompted UNHCR to enhance its promotional activities on international refugee law. It is hoped that these efforts will lead to the adoption of a specific law on refugees. On 13 September 1994, almost two years after Cambodia acceded to the 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, UNHCR signed a Cooperation Agreement with the Government of Cambodia.

8. During 1994, some 140 Cambodian refugees returned voluntarily to Cambodia from various countries with the assistance of UNHCR and the Cambodian Red Cross.

9. Cambodia has the world's highest number of land-mine victims and is one of the most mine infested countries in the world. UNHCR participated in the three day international conference on the banning of land mines (Phnom Penh, 2 to 4 June 1995) organized by the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC), in view of its implications on the welfare and security of returnees. The Conference was attended by over 300 persons from 41 countries, international organizations and NGOs. UNHCR also attended the third meeting of the International Committee on the Reconstruction of Cambodia (ICORC) (Paris, 13 to 19 March 1995), which was organized by France and Japan.

10. The situation of the ethnic Vietnamese who had to flee Cambodia before the May 1993 elections continued to be closely monitored by UNHCR. In early 1994, some 3,000 remained stranded at Chrey Thom on the Cambodian side of the Cambodian/Vietnamese border. This group wishes to return to their traditional homes on the Tonle Sap. Efforts are ongoing to find an adequate durable solution to this difficult issue in cooperation with the Government of Cambodia, WFP, the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and concerned NGOs. UNHCR is prepared to assist authorized returnees in 1995 and, if authorization continues to be granted, in 1996, by providing transportation and a limited repatriation grant.

11. Further events and developments involving internally displaced persons, persons in a refugee-like situation and, possibly, movement into neighbouring countries can be anticipated in 1995 and 1996. UNHCR will continue its close cooperation with the Government of Cambodia, WFP, CRC and other concerned international and national NGOs to provide assistance to internally displaced persons populations, in particular where the groups contain large numbers of former returnees or where intervention may prevent a cross-border movement of persons seeking asylum. UNHCR will advocate on behalf of Cambodians who may flee outside of Cambodia for their return in safety and dignity to areas of their choice within Cambodia.

12. Several hundred Cambodian refugees still residing in camps in the region are expected to voluntarily repatriate in 1995 and 1996, and to benefit from a standard reintegration package provided by UNHCR through the CRC.

13. However, UNHCR's primary focus will move further towards the advocacy of refugee law and doctrine in support of the international protection mandate of the Office. Within this framework, UNHCR will remain associated with refugee status determination procedures for asylum-seekers. Assistance to recognized refugees will be provided through the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) pending the identification of durable solutions. UNHCR will also support the promotion of human rights through close collaboration with the advocacy and training activities of the United Nations Centre for Human Rights. Anti-racism and ethnic sensitivity educational campaigns will be organized in cooperation with the Centre for Human Rights.

Programme Delivery and Administrative Support Costs

14. The 1994 expenditure for Programme Delivery and Administrative Support costs was higher than revised estimates mainly due to the review, in line with other United Nations agencies, of conditions of service of international staff serving in Cambodia. The review resulted in changes in entitlements for the staff in Cambodia including cessation of mission status for all international staff effective 1 July 1994; introduction of post adjustment; payment of mobility and hardship allowance, as well as lump sum portion of one month of assignment grant; and payment of travel expenses to the duty station for each family member, as Cambodia is no longer categorized as a non-family duty station. The revised 1995 requirements are higher than initial estimates on account of the extension of three international and seven local General Service staff posts so as to maintain minimal monitoring capacity in view of the fluid politico-military situation in the north-western provinces.

15. The 1996 requirements for Programme Delivery and Administrative Support are lower than the revised 1995 estimates mainly because of the continuous scaling down of UNHCR's presence in Cambodia. A further reduction of three international and seven local General Service staff posts is scheduled for 1995. Reductions will also be made in the allocations for travel and procurement of non-expendable property.

B. India

16. The objectives of the Office of the UNHCR Chief of Mission in India will be to continue efforts undertaken over the years to actively promote Indian participation in refugee affairs, and to promote adherence to the relevant international conventions. UNHCR will also seek the formal accreditation of the Office of the UNHCR Chief of Mission in India with a view to upgrading its status to that of a full-fledged Branch Office and to gain access to all refugee groups in the country. The recent election of India to UNHCR's Executive Committee is most encouraging, and provides hope for the attainment of these objectives.

17. Monitoring the voluntariness of the repatriation of Sri Lankan refugees from the Indian state of Tamil Nadu to Sri Lanka continued without hindrance. Between January 1994 and March 1995, a total of 18,160 refugees returned to Sri Lanka (8,147 persons in 1994 and 10,013 persons in the first quarter of 1995), leaving a residual caseload of approximately 53,000 refugees in government run camps

in Tamil Nadu. According to government sources, an estimated further 35,000 to 40,000 refugees are living outside camps in Tamil Nadu. Further details on the Sri Lanka repatriation operation are covered in Regional Special Programmes, Part II/10 of this document.

18. Under a bilateral agreement between the Governments of India and Bangladesh, two repatriation movements in February and July 1994 allowed the return of 5,200 Chakma refugees from Tripura State in India to the Chittagong Hill Tracts in Bangladesh, leaving approximately 53,000 refugees in camps run by the Government. Both movements were organized in agreement with the refugee leaders and treated as pilot movements in order to ascertain whether conditions were conducive to permit refugees to return voluntarily to their country of origin in safety and dignity, and to assess possibilities for their early reintegration upon return. Since July 1994 no further movements have taken place and discussions among all parties concerned are still underway in order to determine whether conditions for resuming the operation remain valid. Neither of the Governments concerned has requested UNHCR's intervention, and the Office continues to monitor the situation in order to ensure that the voluntary nature of repatriation is respected.

19. The only UNHCR assistance project in India concerns an urban caseload in Delhi of some 24,000 refugees. The bulk of these refugees are from Afghanistan (22,400), while the remainder originate from several other countries. Although these persons do not have any legal status in India, UNHCR is able to exercise its protection and assistance functions. The reorientation policy initiated during the second half of 1993, aimed at reducing dependency among the refugee population and reducing abusive claims from non-needy cases, continued throughout 1994. This reorientation of the programme initially resulted in a reduction of beneficiary numbers; at 31 December 1994 less than 12,000 persons were benefiting from monthly allowances. Following a reassessment of some cases, some 12,500 beneficiaries were registered for payment of monthly allowances as of March 1995. On the basis of an ongoing survey of the socio-economic situation of refugee families, approximately 5,000 refugees benefited in 1994 from lump-sum grants equivalent to twelve-months' allowance, and started or improved their own small scale income generating activities.

20. In the third quarter of 1994, the level of the monthly subsistence allowance was increased by 30 per cent to account for inflation. In addition, the number of pupils receiving education assistance at primary level increased sharply from an initial planning figure of 1,200 to 6,200. This variation mainly arises from the fact that the planning figure for 1994 was established in 1993 at the time of the last major influx from Afghanistan, and when UNHCR did not have accurate information on the profile of the new arrivals. The bulk of new arrivals in 1993 and early 1994, numbering some 14,000 persons, were of Indian origin and Hindi speaking, which explains the high rate of school attendance among these arrivals. It should be noted that budgetary increases under education and domestic needs were offset by the decrease in the total number of beneficiaries; no major upward revision of the budget was thus considered necessary.

21. Considering that the programme is stabilizing in terms of beneficiaries and that the situation in Afghanistan is not yet conducive for any large scale

repatriation, it is planned to retain the 1996 care and maintenance programme at the 1995 revised budget level. Limited funds have also been budgeted under the repatriation programme taking into account the return rate registered in 1994, when 173 refugees, mainly Afghans, opted for voluntary repatriation.

22. The reorientation of the assistance policy highlighted above has led to a number of threats against UNHCR staff and violence from refugees directed at UNHCR. These developments have forced the closure of three community centres operating in Delhi and the suspension of counselling, primary health care services and English language training at these centres since March 1995. Refugees in need continue to receive these services at the UNHCR premises, where adequate police protection is provided by the Indian authorities. Negotiation with local NGOs to take over social counselling, health and education are currently underway.

Programme Delivery and Administrative Support Costs

23. Expenditure in 1994 for Programme Delivery and Administrative Support costs was lower than the revised estimates, mainly because less non-expendable property was purchased, and at lower costs than anticipated. Expenditure for regional travel was also lower than expected. It was anticipated that the repatriation of Tamil refugees from Sri Lanka would gather momentum, hence higher amounts had been budgeted for regional travel between the Office of the Chief or Mission in Delhi and Madras. Because of security problems in Sri Lanka this was, however, not fully utilized. The revised 1995 requirements are higher than initial estimates, mainly because of increases in salaries and in common staff costs.

24. The 1996 requirements for Programme Delivery and Administrative Support are not significantly different from the 1995 revised requirements principally due to the pattern of activities of the office in India remaining the same. Staffing levels and non-staff costs have been retained at the same level as in 1995.

C. Indonesia

25. At 31 December 1994, the size of the Vietnamese caseload had decreased to 6,618 persons. Among them, 6,521 persons were screened-out cases not qualified for refugee status and only 87 persons were refugees awaiting resettlement in third countries. In addition, there were 453 Cambodians awaiting repatriation and, in Jakarta and Bandung, some 20 non-Indo-Chinese refugees/asylum-seekers from former Yugoslavia, Somalia, Algeria and the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Cambodians and Vietnamese were assisted in the camp on Galang Island. The transit centre in Tanjung Pinang was established in early 1994 to facilitate voluntary repatriation and resettlement of Cambodians and Vietnamese.

26. During 1994, 2,009 Vietnamese returned to Viet Nam under the voluntary repatriation programme; another 1,783 Vietnamese and 6 Cambodians were resettled in third countries. The voluntary repatriation programme was disrupted by a protracted demonstration which began in April 1994. The voluntary repatriation rate increased and accelerated two-fold when the situation in the camp returned to normal in November 1994.

27. Out of the total of 3,805 Vietnamese the returned from the camps in South-East Asia, Hong Kong and Japan during the first five months of 1995, 1,722 persons (45 per cent) returned voluntarily from Galang camp in Indonesia.

28. The voluntary repatriation programme was again disrupted when news of possible changes of policy in the major resettlement country spread in Galang camp in late May 1995. As a result, it is likely that a substantial number of Vietnamese will remain in Indonesia if voluntary repatriation and the Orderly Return Programme are not resumed soon.

29. As the CPA (Comprehensive Plan of Action for Indo-Chinese Refugees) activities in first asylum countries including Indonesia are scheduled to be completed by the end of 1995, no assistance programme for the Indo-Chinese caseload is planned at this stage for 1996. The budgetary requirements for 1996 will have to be reviewed in the event that the CPA completion date is postponed. As in previous years the non-Indo-Chinese refugees will continue to be assisted in 1996 until durable solutions have been identified.

Programme Delivery and Administrative Support Costs

30. The 1994 expenditure for Programme Delivery and Administrative Support costs was lower than revised estimates mainly due to reduced expenditure under staff costs, travel and general operating expenses, reflecting the gradual scaling down of the operation in Indonesia. The revised 1995 requirements are higher than initial estimates due mainly to the need to have short-term staff on mission to deal with problems relating to the slow-down in voluntary repatriation movements from Indonesia, which has resulted from the spread of the news on possible changes of policy in the major resettlement country.

31. The 1996 requirements for Programme Delivery and Administrative Support costs are lower due to the planned gradual scaling down of the operation in Indonesia.

D. Japan

32. At 31 December 1994, there were 481 persons of concern to UNHCR in Japan, comprising 37 Vietnamese refugees in the process of local settlement, 10 persons awaiting the results of their status determination and 434 persons who were determined not to be refugees. Children made up around one third of the caseload. Most of the Indo-Chinese cases were unskilled manual labourers and come from poor rural areas in northern or central Viet Nam.

33. From 1975 till the end of 1994, a total of 11,026 Indo-Chinese asylum-seekers and refugees arrived in Japan. By the end of April 1995, Japan had accepted a total of 3,665 Indo-Chinese refugees for local settlement. A total of 882 persons opted for voluntary repatriation and 6,759 persons were resettled to third countries from Japan. Japan, through the Orderly Departure Programme, is the resettlement country for a total of 6,221 Indo-Chinese refugees from camps in South-East Asian countries and Hong Kong.

34. Since the commencement of the CPA on 19 September 1989, 1,226 Indo-Chinese asylum-seekers arrived in Japan. 160 persons were found to be refugees and 834 persons were found not to qualify for refugee status. In 1994, 109 Vietnamese arrived in Japan.

35. In January 1995, the immigration authorities notified the remaining ten Vietnamese asylum-seekers of their first instance decision, thus marking the completion of the first instance status determination under CPA for all the Vietnamese who had arrived directly in Japan. UNHCR will focus on the appeal cases of those who received a negative decision in the first instance with the aim of completing the appeal cases in the near future.

36. In 1994, the Vietnamese population helped through UNHCR's assistance programme decreased by 90 per cent. This is because once a Vietnamese asylum-seeker is determined not to be a refugee, the person is moved into government sponsored facilities, at which point responsibility for the case is transferred from UNHCR to the Government. A total of 547 persons returned to Viet Nam in 1994; as of the end of May 1995, a further 340 had returned to Viet Nam under UNHCR's voluntary repatriation programme.

37. Programme priorities for 1996 will be twofold. First, UNHCR will focus on the conclusion of CPA-related status determination activities, i.e. the appeal cases of those Vietnamese, including the ex-Hong Kong Vietnamese arrivals, who have already received the first instance decisions, and the promotion of voluntary repatriation. Second, UNHCR will gradually shift its focus from CPA-related issues to broader Convention-related protection promotional activities, and will enhance its public information and fund raising activities in Japan and the Republic of Korea. The Office will continue to assist residual Indo-Chinese cases under the CPA, as well as any other asylum-seekers, if required.

38. By the end of 1995 all the CPA caseload in Japan will be moved into government sponsored facilities, and the beneficiaries under the 1996 General Programmes care and maintenance will be individual asylum-seekers and/or refugees who approach UNHCR for material assistance, legal advice or social services support. UNHCR will continue to play a role in the promotion of local settlement of Vietnamese refugees in Japan and voluntary repatriation of those Vietnamese determined not to be refugees under the CPA framework. The budgetary requirement for voluntary repatriation will be covered by a CPA repatriation project administered at UNHCR Headquarters.

39. UNHCR's assistance programme is implemented by the Foundation for the Welfare and Education of Asian People (FWEAP), CARITAS-Japan, Japan International Social Services (JISS), and Japan Legal Aid Association (JLAA). JLAA provides legal counselling to both Indo-Chinese and other refugees to be settled in Japan. JISS provides social counselling to non-Indo-Chinese asylum-seekers pending adjudication of their application for refugee status with the Japanese Government. In 1996, CARITAS-Japan and JLAA will be UNHCR's implementing partners.

Programme Delivery and Administrative Support Costs

40. The 1994 expenditure for Programme Delivery and Administrative Support costs was lower than revised estimates, mainly due to turn over of staff and the resultant reduction in common staff costs. The revised 1995 and initial 1996 requirements are higher than initial 1995 estimates mainly due to appreciation of the yen and the retention of one international post to respond to increased external relations needs and the Branch Office's coverage of the Republic of Korea.

E. Lao People's Democratic Republic

41. UNHCR's main activity in the Lao People's Democratic Republic (LPDR) consists of assisting returnees, who come mainly from Thailand. In 1994, 5,593 Lao returned (5,172 from Thailand; 408 from China; 13 from elsewhere). At 31 December 1994, a cumulative total of 24,546 Lao had availed themselves of the voluntary repatriation option since the voluntary repatriation programme's inception in 1980 (21,426 from Thailand; 2,917 from China and 102 from elsewhere). During the first five months of 1995, 1,674 Lao repatriated from Thailand.

42. In 1994, the returnee population continued to be composed mainly of highlanders (69 per cent).

43. As of 31 December 1994, there were still 11,924 Lao in refugee camps in Thailand for whom durable solutions were being sought. This number had decreased to 8,059 on 30 April 1995 (with a breakdown of 6,867 highlanders and 1,192 lowland Lao). Out of 8,059 still in refugee camps in Thailand as of 30 April 1995, some 7,400 were expected to avail themselves of the voluntary repatriation option. However, in light of recent developments with regard to the CPA, this target may have to be adjusted downwards should the resettlement option be made available again for part of this caseload.

44. During 1994, two new rural settlements were created, one in Vientiane with a capacity of 1,000, and one in Bokeo province, financed by the European Union, with a capacity of 550. In late June 1994, the Lao Government responded generously to returnee needs and offered to UNHCR a site in Khamouane province with an initial capacity of 3,000.

45. The seventh tripartite meeting on the Lao voluntary repatriation between the LPDR, Thailand and UNHCR took place in Pattaya, Thailand, from 26 to 28 July 1994. It was followed by two tripartite working meetings in Chiang-rai Province in Thailand on 21 November 1994 and in Luang Prabang in the Lao People's Democratic Republic from 30 to 31 March 1995. The eighth Tripartite Meeting between the LPDR, Thailand and UNHCR will take place in the LPDR in 1995.

46. UNHCR created two new posts in mid-1995 to increase its ability to monitor that repatriation takes place in conditions of safety and dignity, as well as to promote voluntary repatriation and reintegration through public information activities. The two posts have been filled with Lao/Hmong speakers.

47. The sixth Steering Committee of the International Conference on Indo-Chinese Refugees (Geneva, 16 March 1995) reaffirmed the end of 1995 as a target date for the completion of the Lao repatriation. Accordingly, it has been envisaged that 6,200 Lao will be repatriated to the LPDR during 1995 (6,000 from Thailand, 200 from China). However, due to factors described in the CPA regional overview, only 1,674 Lao, all of whom were from Thailand, repatriated during the first five months of 1995. The target of 6,200 returns to the LPDR may therefore be difficult to achieve.

48. Returnees will continue to return to rural settlement sites which remain the preferred repatriation option. As in the past, a limited number of returnees will continue to choose the individual return option. In addition, some will benefit from the newly introduced scheme of return in small groups, which benefits both returnees and existing villages that absorb small groups of returnees. Local communities receiving the small groups will receive local infrastructure assistance (schools, roads, dispensaries, etc.) for the benefit of the returnees and the local community.

49. Under present circumstances, it is estimated that a further 2,000 refugees in Thailand will have volunteered for repatriation during 1995 but may not have left Thailand by early 1996. It is expected that some 200 persons from China may also be repatriated to the LPDR during 1996. UNHCR will continue to provide development and reintegration assistance to returnees who will reach the LPDR during 1996, as well as those who returned during 1995, both in terms of provision of assistance and monitoring of their return in safety and dignity. Because of the long time spent in refugee camps, reintegration activities have been recognized as an important component in ensuring the viability and economic sustainability of returnees in the LPDR.

50. UNHCR will assist the Lao Government (Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare) with the identification and preparation of rural settlement sites, as well as the identification of villages willing to receive returnees so as to create the necessary capacity to absorb the remaining returnees. Promotional activities and information campaigns aimed at publicizing the modalities of voluntary repatriation and the conditions of return in LPDR will continue to be undertaken jointly with UNHCR in Thailand.

51. Budget submissions for 1996 reflect the change in repatriation assistance and the initiation of small group site projects for host communities receiving up to 20 returnee families. Budget requirements may have to be modified should the returnee caseload in 1996 be higher than initially anticipated.

52. The Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare is UNHCR's principal operational partner in the LPDR. The provincial and district branches of other Ministries (Agriculture, Education, Health and the Lao Women's Union) also play an important role in the planning and implementation of settlements. Three NGOs (Concern of Ireland, Consortium of United States and ZOA of the Netherlands) will play a major role regarding community services activities targeting beneficiaries who have spent

some 20 years in refugee camps and who thus lack practical experience in providing for themselves in their homeland. Many have lost their links to home villages and therefore require reintegration within rural settlements where NGOs operate.

53. One of the principal roles of NGOs will be to help returnees in nine provinces to become self sufficient after their first harvest or first earnings from income-generation activities. For this purpose emphasis will be placed on training activities. The needs of women and children will be properly addressed with the assistance of the Lao Women's Union, the Departments of Health, Agriculture and Education as well as traditional NGO implementing partners.

54. The European Union sponsored pilot project in Bokeo province will continue to benefit from reintegration activities targeting the returnee caseload as well as the local population. The Government of the United States has established a fund through the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to provide assistance in support of the settlement of returnees.

Programme Development and Administrative Support Costs

55. The 1994 expenditure for Programme Delivery and Administrative Support costs was not significantly different from revised estimates. Revised 1995 requirements are higher than initial estimates mainly because of the creation of two international posts to further strengthen the Office's monitoring capacity in the LPDR. Non-staff costs are not significantly different from initial estimates. The 1996 initial requirements are not significantly different from the 1995 revised requirements.

F. Malaysia

56. During 1994, 1,268 screened-out Vietnamese were repatriated voluntarily while 958 Vietnamese refugees were resettled in third countries. As of 31 December 1994, 5,339 Vietnamese and 137 Cambodians remained in Sungei Besi camp, on the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur. Among them, only 342 persons were refugees and the rest, 4,997 persons, were screened-out Vietnamese who did not qualify for refugee status.

57. There were also 61 Achehnese refugees and some 130 other asylum-seekers of diverse nationalities who received assistance from UNHCR in Malaysia. Most of the caseload consisted of single Muslim males from South-West Asia and East Africa. In addition, some 5,000 Myanmar Muslims were registered with UNHCR. Some 400 Bosnians were given temporary asylum in Malaysia; their care and maintenance was provided far by the Government of Malaysia. UNHCR continues to provide assistance towards repatriation of the remaining Vietnamese and Cambodian caseload in 1995.

58. During the first four months of 1995, a total of 399 Vietnamese were repatriated voluntarily and 160 refugees were resettled in third countries. At 30 April 1995, 4,817 Vietnamese remained in the camp in Malaysia. The pace of voluntary repatriation fell sharply in late May 1995 when the news of possible changes of policy in the major resettlement country was circulated in Sungei Besi camp.

59. A Memorandum of Understanding was concluded between Malaysia and Viet Nam for the Orderly Return Programme (ORP) on 24 January 1995.

60. Completion of activities under the CPA has been scheduled by the sixth Steering Committee for the end of 1995. On this basis, no assistance for the Vietnamese has been planned for 1996. However, in view of recent developments the situation will be reviewed towards the end of 1995.

61. In March 1995, the 61 Achehnese refugees, including 53 Achehnese who occupied the UNHCR compound, and another 99 Achehnese in detention in Langkap prison, were released and were granted resident and work permits in Malaysia. UNHCR will continue to monitor and find solutions for the remaining 32 Achehnese in detention and the Myanmar Muslims in 1996. The level of assistance for the non-Indo-Chinese refugees/asylum-seekers in Malaysia will remain the same in 1996.

62. UNHCR in Kuala Lumpur will continue to have a regional responsibility to coordinate UNHCR policy and activities in Brunei and Singapore.

Programme Delivery and Administrative Support Costs

63. The 1994 expenditure for Programme Delivery and Administrative Support costs was lower than revised estimates mainly due to limited turn-over of staff resulting in reduced common staff costs. The revised 1995 requirements are higher than initial estimates due to the extension of five local General Service staff posts to cope with the fluid situation caused by the slow down of voluntary repatriation movements from Malaysia following demonstrations in Sungei Besi Camp.

64. The 1996 requirements for Programme Delivery and Administrative Support costs are lower than the 1995 revised requirements principally due to the planned scaling down of the operation of the Office in Malaysia to coincide with the completion of CPA activities by the end of 1995.

G. Myanmar

65. Of some 250,000 refugees who sought asylum in Bangladesh during late 1991 and early 1992, 80,198 persons returned under UNHCR auspices to Rakhine State in Myanmar between April and December 1994, and 137,257 persons had returned as of 13 May 1995. Taking into account the 54,571 persons repatriated under the bilateral arrangement in between September 1992 and April 1994, the total number of returnees by 13 May 1995 came to 190,704. A total of 52,512 refugees remained in nine camps in Bangladesh at May 1995.

66. The voluntary repatriation of the Muslim residents of the Rakhine State in Myanmar from the camps in Bangladesh has proceeded as scheduled. The positive response to the mass registration exercise -- with over 90 per cent of the camp population volunteering to return -- enabled the movements to take place as planned. In spite of a three-week halt in the movements during October called by the government of the region as a preventive measure to contain the spread of plague, the planned target of 80,000 persons to return during 1994 under UNHCR auspices was achieved leaving some 120,000 refugees scheduled to return during 1995. In

Bangladesh, eleven refugee camps including three transit camps were closed, leaving only nine camps in operation as of May 1995.

67. Cooperation from the authorities on both sides of the border remains excellent. There have been very few protection cases reported in the Bangladesh camps, and UNHCR has been given unrestricted access to all returnees in the Rakhine State of Myanmar. Monitoring of the well-being of the returnees is covered adequately by UNHCR's 15 international and 40 local staff. UNHCR also has access to the 48 detained returnees in Maungdaw, Buthidaung and Sittwe prisons.

68. It is anticipated that all former residents of the Rakhine State who stayed in the camps of Bangladesh will have returned by the end of 1995. Therefore, all assistance activities related to the movement phase will have ceased. UNHCR's assistance in 1996 will be directed at the programme of small-scale reintegration projects in the returnee receiving areas of the Rakhine State, which started in 1994 and has gradually gained momentum.

69. In order to improve and stabilize the livelihood of the population at large in the returnee receiving areas, more than 160 small-scale reintegration projects are being implemented through the use of Village Development Committees in the sectors of health, water and sanitation, education, community development and infrastructure. Some improvements to the sole tarmac road between Maungdaw and Buthidaung were also necessary to ensure continued access, especially during the rainy season.

70. The sectoral breakdown of the Myanmar Repatriation Operation for the initial and revised 1995 and the initial 1996 allocations is as follows (in dollars):

Sector	1995 initial	1995 revised	1996 initial
Transport/logistics	1,210,132	820,175	115,000
Domestic needs	7,508,574	3,230,000	0
Water (non-agric)	53,186	627,981	255,500
Sanitation	9,386	626,380	315,000
Health/nutrition	75,086	890,815	435,000
Shelter	1,805,186	867,000	0
Community services	0	48,005	17,750
Education	0	280,949	140,500
Crop production	0	871,885	436,000
Fisheries	0	112,665	56,500
Income generation	0	79,450	40,000
Legal assistance	245,280	78,400	0
Agency op. support	2,213,170	1,129,395	188,750
Total	13,120,000	9,663,100	2,000,000

71. The initial and revised 1995 budget shown above includes both costs for activities directly related to return movement and provision for small-scale reintegration projects, whilst the 1996 budget contains only provisions for small-scale reintegration projects.

72. The main governmental implementing partner is the Immigration and Manpower Department of the Ministry of Home Affairs, which is expected to work closely with the relevant line ministries at national, state and township level, and through the established Village Development Committees. Following an agreement with the Myanmar authorities on the limited use of local and international NGOs, UNHCR is funding two international and one local NGOs. These agencies operate in the fields of water and sanitation, health care, vocational skills training, fleet maintenance and special assistance to the vulnerable. WFP has made considerable progress in its food-for-work scheme, providing numerous employment opportunities in the implementation of mainly small-scale access road repair and pond digging projects.

Programme Delivery and Administrative Support Costs

73. The 1994 expenditure for Programme Delivery and Administrative Support costs was lower than revised estimates both under staff and non-staff costs. In staffing, there were significant delays from the time of creation of posts to the actual dates of their incumbency which resulted in savings. Savings were also realized in non-expendable property because the large quantity of equipment, which was redeployed from the Cambodia operation to Myanmar, continued to function efficiently. The revised 1995 requirements are higher than initial estimates mainly because of the creation of one international and two General Service posts to assist with the last pace of return. The 1996 initial requirements are not significantly different from 1995 revised requirements as the staffing levels will be maintained to provide ongoing monitoring of the returnees and of the reintegration projects.

H. Papua New Guinea

74. At 31 December 1994, Papua New Guinea (PNG) hosted a refugee population of some 8,450 persons from Irian Jaya, Indonesia, of whom some 3,650 were living in East Awin rural settlement near Kiunga town in the Western Province with assistance from UNHCR. The remaining 4,800 were living in five villages in the border areas. There were also one Angolan refugee family of five persons and one refugee from Indian Kashmir in Port Moresby. The Kashmiri refugee received UNHCR assistance pending a durable solution. Of the assisted Irian Jayan refugees, some 1,970 persons, approximately 54 per cent, were under 18 years of age and some 1,700 persons, approximately 46 per cent of the population, were female. During 1994, some 100 new arrivals from the border villages came to the settlement site in East Awin. In 1994, 186 refugees repatriated voluntarily to Irian Jaya, and in the first quarter of 1995, 12 refugees repatriated.

75. In February 1995, a joint mission from UNHCR Headquarters, Regional Office Canberra and the Liaison Office in PNG was conducted to review the local settlement programme in East Awin. The aim of the mission was to assess the potential for self-sufficiency among the refugees and to identify the means to reorient the local settlement programme so as to achieve a successful conclusion of the programme in

the near future. Following the mission, the broad country objectives for the UNHCR Liaison Office in 1995 and 1996 were modified to list the promotion of voluntary repatriation as the main objective in 1995 and 1996, together with the promotion of local integration.

76. As in past years, UNHCR will continue its efforts to promote local integration as a durable solution for the Irian Jaya refugees. In this connection UNHCR encourages the PNG Government to adopt the proposed new policy paper on Irian Jayan refugees. The adoption of this policy paper will grant the refugees freedom of movement and choice of citizenship, which is particularly important to those refugees who could not or do not opt for voluntary repatriation. Programme activities for the promotion of self-sufficiency in the settlement site in East Awin will continue to focus on the building up of long term sustainable economic strength among the refugees so that when the choice of local integration is available those who choose to become PNG nationals will already enjoy self-sufficiency. These activities will include provision of basic food to vulnerable groups (estimated at some 500 persons), education, vocational training and income-generation activities. Both UNHCR and the PNG Authorities recognize the importance of finding an early solution to land ownership issues and of involving the relevant government line departments in health, education and road maintenance programmes.

77. UNHCR, together with the PNG Authorities, will step up the process of voluntary repatriation. In this connection, the Liaison Officer visited Irian Jaya in 1994, and the UNHCR Liaison Office organized a visit of refugee group leaders to the country of origin. In 1995, 200 persons are expected to return to Irian Jaya. For 1996, a target of 450 persons is set for repatriation. Both targets may be modest given the encouraging response among the refugees after the visit of their leaders regarding repatriation. UNHCR will closely monitor developments both in the country of origin and in PNG in order to be in a position to modify the programme in a timely manner.

78. The Department of Village Services and Provincial Affairs is responsible for the administration of the local settlement site and border villages, and for new arrivals. The Montfort Catholic Mission is responsible for primary education and basic health care in East Awin. It also organizes adult education and skills training for refugee women in the settlement site. The Young Women's Christian Association implements a small education programme at post-secondary level in Port Moresby. The Baptist Union implements small business development projects in the settlement. The Australian Volunteers Abroad/Overseas Service Bureau provides a volunteer as an agriculturist to work in the East Awin settlement site.

79. Most refugees living in the settlement site have reached a significant degree of self-sufficiency in food, with the exception of certain vulnerable groups and 1994 arrivals. The local settlement programme will concentrate on measures designed to achieve a lasting self-sufficiency as the majority of the present population has already achieved a significant level of sufficiency. For 1995, activities to promote self-sufficiency will continue. Special attention will be given to the training of single female heads of families.

80. UNHCR has no presence in the area of return in Indonesia. The monitoring of the situation of returnees was carried out by the International Committee of the Red Cross. In late 1994, the UNHCR Liaison Officer made a first visit to the area of return in Irian Jaya. In March 1995, the UNHCR Liaison Officer visited the area of return together with some refugee leaders whose involvement is essential in the decision making process among refugees. Transportation, a small repatriation allowance and other household items, such as mosquito nets and small farm tools, are provided to voluntary repatriants.

81. In 1994, some 1,500 refugee children were assisted by UNHCR with their primary and secondary education. In 1995 some 1,250 refugee children will benefit from primary and secondary education assistance and some 220 refugee children from high school education assistance. In 1996 the same level of assistance for primary and secondary education will be maintained until the cessation of the assistance programme. UNHCR supports the health sector by providing funds, mainly for recurrent costs such as salaries. The Government provides basic medicines. UNHCR, as part of its efforts to promote local integration, has been encouraging the Government to include provision for maintenance of the road connecting the settlement site and the Fly River as well as recurrent costs under education and health sectors for East Awin.

82. The Education Account covered scholarship assistance to 45 teacher trainees.

Programme Delivery and Administrative Support Costs

83. The 1994 expenditure and revised 1995 requirements for Programme Delivery and Administrative Support costs are not significantly different from the revised and initial estimates.

84. The revised 1995 requirements are not significantly different from initial estimates. In November 1994, the possibility of closing the office was again discussed and in February 1995, a mission to re-examine this issue was undertaken, which submitted a series of recommendations for phasing out of the assistance programme in Papua New Guinea by mid 1996. The feasibility of closing the office will be reviewed towards the end of 1995. UNHCR will therefore maintain a presence with two local General Service posts in 1996 for time being.

I. Singapore

85. Singapore hosted just over 130 persons of concern to UNHCR as of 31 December 1994. This caseload comprised 98 Vietnamese and 36 non-Indo-Chinese refugees/asylum-seekers of various nationalities, including Sri Lankans, Iranians, Myanmar and Somalis. Among the Vietnamese two persons are refugees who came to Singapore in January 1991, before the implementation of CPA, while the remainder are screened-out Vietnamese who did not qualify for refugee status. There were no new arrivals of Vietnamese in 1994. The majority of refugees and asylum-seekers are adult males.

86. Within the framework of the CPA, voluntary repatriation of Vietnamese continues to be the main objective of the UNHCR programme in Singapore. All of the

Vietnamese reside in the Hawkins Road camp and are assisted with basic material assistance which includes food, shelter, domestic items and health care. Although persistent efforts have been made to promote voluntary repatriation, the Vietnamese still insist on resettlement in a third country, and during 1994 there were no departures for either voluntary repatriation or resettlement in third countries.

87. The activities under the CPA are scheduled to be completed by the end of 1995. In the event that completion of CPA activities has to be postponed, further funding may be required to continue assisting the remaining Vietnamese caseload. The non-Indo-Chinese refugees were provided with a subsistence allowance. They made their own arrangement for food and accommodation. These refugees reside mainly in hostels and in some cases with friends. UNHCR also provided medical treatment and language/vocational training for the non-Indo-Chinese refugees as required. The durable solution for non-Indo-Chinese refugees remains resettlement and family reunion in third countries.

88. UNHCR will continue to provide assistance to non-Indo-Chinese refugees and asylum-seekers in 1996. UNHCR Singapore will also provide logistical support to the UNHCR operation in Tanjung Penang, Indonesia as well as regional procurements for other UNHCR offices in the region.

Programme Delivery and Administrative Support Costs

89. Programme Delivery and Administrative Support costs have remained at the same levels both for the 1994 expenditure and for the revised 1995 and initial 1996 estimates. No changes are foreseen in the staffing levels or structure of the office.

J. Sri Lanka

90. UNHCR's presence in Sri Lanka is primarily linked to the voluntary repatriation operation of Sri Lankans from India, which between January 1994 and March 1995 registered the return of 18,160 persons. UNHCR's reintegration activities for the returnees are designed to also allow internally displaced persons located in returnee areas to benefit from UNHCR's assistance. In particular, since 1993 the Office has been implementing a reintegration approach which includes immediate and limited assistance to returnees in reception camps prior to returning to their villages of origin, pre-settlement in-kind assistance for the construction of temporary shelter in their places of origin, and implementation of community oriented micro-projects. Assistance for internally displaced persons living in government welfare centres in the central districts of Puttalam and Anuradhapura is also under consideration. Details of the repatriation operation can be found in Part II/10 of this document, Regional Special Programmes.

91. The sectoral breakdown for the initial and revised 1995 and the initial 1996 special programme allocations is as follows (in dollars):

Sector	Initial 1995	Revised 1995	Initial 1996
Food	40,820	83,327	0
Transport	774,438	507,706	507,706
Domestic needs	255,130	214,308	214,308
Water	297,714	246,527	179,122
Sanitation	604,076	527,560	311,780
Health/nutrition	476,840	439,792	439,792
Shelter	894,915	832,806	262,261
Comm. services	96,531	59,980	59,980
Education	552,654	412,775	412,775
Crop production	849,635	691,151	691,151
Livestock	510,173	391,559	391,559
Fisheries	141,714	141,714	141,714
Income generation	425,715	323,673	323,673
Legal assistance	5,110	5,102	5,102
Agency op. support	484,235	687,320	732,077
Total	6,409,700	5,565,300	4,673,000

92. The reduction of the revised 1995 and initial 1996 budgets compared with the initial 1995 budget takes into account the experience of previous years when implementation has been delayed by security constraints and political factors. Furthermore, funds to cover internally displaced persons in government welfare centres have been budgeted only for 1995.

93. In addition, UNHCR will continue to provide basic care and maintenance assistance covering domestic needs, health care and education to a small number of refugees and asylum-seekers of various nationalities stranded in Sri Lanka. As of March 1995, only ten refugees were assisted under this project, while possibilities for voluntary repatriation and resettlement continued to be pursued. The initial 1996 requirements for continuation of this assistance has been maintained at the same level as the revised 1995 budget.

Programme Delivery and Administrative Support Costs

94. The 1994 expenditure for Programme Delivery and Administrative Support Costs was higher than revised estimates, mainly in staff costs due to higher than expected rates of staff rotation. The office premises were relocated in December 1994. The revised 1995 requirements are higher than initial estimates mainly due to the creation of two posts and higher rental costs for office premises. In addition, there are increases for procurement of vehicles and office equipment, such as communications equipment to further strengthen the monitoring capacity of the Office. Staffing levels are proposed to be retained at the same levels in 1996.

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN OTHER COUNTRIES IN ASIA

(in thousands of United States dollars)

1993	1994			1995	
AMOUNT OBLIGATED	ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1994 EXCOM	PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION		SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION
GENERAL PROGRAMMES (1)					
25.0	–	–	Myanmar	EMERGENCY FUND	–
				CARE AND MAINTENANCE	
3,705.5 a/	4,199.4	4,589.9	India		4,589.9
31.4	38.7	30.0	Indonesia		30.0
1,010.4	323.4	110.7	Japan		89.5
154.7	202.7	200.0	Malaysia		200.0
3.0	–	–	Other countries		–
26.5	49.9	29.0	Singapore		29.0
29.3 b/	30.9	30.9	Sri Lanka		30.9
				VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION	
768.0 c/	–	320.0 f/	Cambodia		400.0
72.9	382.0	177.0	India		177.0
14.5 d/	–	–	Indonesia		–
1.8 d/	–	–	Malaysia		–
47.5	21.5	58.0	Papua New Guinea		60.0
				LOCAL SETTLEMENT	
609.3	551.1	654.0	Papua New Guinea		580.0
0.2 d/	–	–	India		–
0.3 d/	–	–	Sri Lanka		–
–	–	166.7	Other countries		166.7
				RESETTLEMENT	
16.4 d/	–	–	India		–
1.0 d/	–	–	Indonesia		–
6.6 d/	–	–	Malaysia		–
28.5 d/	–	–	Sri Lanka		–
423.0 e/	500.0	470.0	Other countries		–
				PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	
580.0	470.4	527.9	India		528.2
414.3	287.4	355.6	Indonesia		282.9
549.8	405.0	699.7	Malaysia		574.9
288.6	371.7	326.5	Papua New Guinea		308.9
2,138.7	2,101.6	2,966.8	Japan		3,461.2
261.9	238.7	180.5	Singapore		178.7
1.5	114.0	–	Regional Training		–
–	328.6	–	Other countries		–
11,210.6	10,617.0	11,893.2		SUB-TOTAL OPERATIONS	11,687.8
				ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Overview Tables (Part II)	
112.4	118.9	102.1	India		94.0
39.1	30.6	38.2	Indonesia		40.8
605.3	581.0	488.2	Japan		483.4
135.1	122.0	143.2	Malaysia		75.9
60.6	51.4	87.5	Singapore		86.9
136.0	202.0	–	Regional Training		–
12,299.1	11,722.9	12,752.4		TOTAL (1)	12,468.8

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN OTHER COUNTRIES IN ASIA

(in thousands of United States dollars)

1994	1995			1996	
AMOUNT OBLIGATED	ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1994 EXCOM	PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION		SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES (2)					
22.0	31.2	–	Papua New Guinea	EDUCATION ACCOUNT	–
270.6	626.6	300.0		CAMBODIA REPATRIATION	–
				PROGRAMME DELIVERY	
1,588.4	643.0	956.2		See Overview Tables (Part II)	590.9
				ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT	
107.3	44.5	81.6		See Overview Tables (Part II)	60.7
				COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION	
1,995.5	178.7	1,007.7	Indonesia		–
1,290.6	754.6	258.2	Japan		–
3,854.5	3,949.1	4,748.6	Lao PDR		2,912.9
2,761.9	1,524.6	1,522.8	Malaysia		–
236.0	211.3	271.6	Singapore		–
				PROGRAMME DELIVERY	
				See Overview Tables (Part II)	
327.8	122.1	217.8	Indonesia		–
85.3	434.8	533.6	Japan		–
530.3	429.1	635.7	Lao PDR		607.1
217.6	37.9	110.6	Malaysia		–
				ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT	
41.7	36.7	61.7	Lao PDR	See Overview Tables (Part II)	53.7
				OTHER TRUST FUNDS	
27.4	–	–	Cambodia		–
3,395.4	6,409.7	5,565.3	Sri Lanka		4,673.0
–	–	50.5	Japan		50.5
3.8	–	–	India		–
0.5	–	–	Indonesia		–
175.3	–	–	Malaysia		–
6,454.8	13,120.0	9,663.1	Myanmar		2,000.0
5.8	–	–	Papua New Guinea		–
				PROGRAMME DELIVERY	
				See Overview Tables (Part II)	
237.0	336.9	368.8	India		369.3
1,324.6	1,102.5	1,315.8	Sri Lanka		1,241.8
1,154.0	2,043.0	2,311.4	Myanmar		2,141.5
32.0	126.0	–	Regional Training		–
				ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT	
				See Overview Tables (Part II)	
152.4	168.5	167.5	Sri Lanka		157.7
249.4	363.8	219.0	Myanmar		212.3
				ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT	
57.5	66.7	62.0	India	Junior Professional Officer	62.0
122.4	219.1	74.2	Lao PDR	Junior Professional Officer	12.0
69.1	–	135.0	Malaysia	Junior Professional Officer	69.0
88.5	–	164.2	Myanmar	Junior Professional Officer	164.2
42.6	–	11.0	Sri Lanka	Junior Professional Officer	11.0
				See Overview Tables (Part II)	
26,922.0	32,980.4	30,813.9		TOTAL (2)	15,389.6
39,221.1	44,703.3	43,566.3		GRAND TOTAL (1+2)	27,858.4

a/ of which US$ 5,352 incurred against Other Programmes
b/ of which US$ 2,526 incurred against Other Programmes
c/ obligation incurred against the General Allocation for Voluntary Repatriation
d/ obligation incurred against Other Programmes
e/ of which US$ 1,108 incurred against Other Programmes
f/ allocated from the General Allocation for Voluntary Repatriation

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

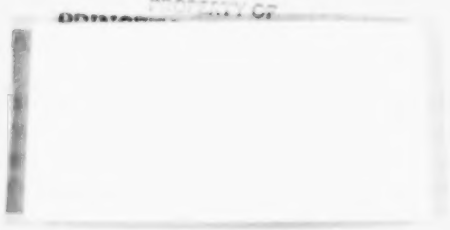
Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.96/846/Part II/10
16 August 1995

Original: ENGLISH

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME

Forty-sixth session



UNHCR ACTIVITIES FINANCED BY VOLUNTARY FUNDS: REPORT FOR 1994-1995 AND PROPOSED PROGRAMMES AND BUDGET FOR 1996

PART II. ASIA AND OCEANIA

Section 10 - Regional Special Programmes

(submitted by the High Commissioner)

GE.95-02581

II.10 REGIONAL SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

A. Comprehensive Plan of Action for Indo-Chinese Refugees (CPA)

1. The CPA, adopted at the International Conference on Indo-Chinese Refugees (Geneva, 13 and 14 June 1989), was developed as a framework for international consensus and cooperation between first-asylum and resettlement countries, the Governments of Viet Nam and the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and UNHCR for arriving at a comprehensive solution for refugees and non-refugees from Viet Nam and the Lao People's Democratic Republic. The CPA's objectives are to discourage clandestine departures; assure asylum and access to a status determination process for all asylum-seekers; provide resettlement opportunities for those found to qualify as refugees; and repatriate in safety and dignity those volunteering or found not to fulfil refugee criteria.

2. The refugee status determination for Vietnamese under the CPA was implemented at various dates during the course of 1989 in all first-asylum countries. Pre cut-off date Vietnamese and post cut-off date Vietnamese determined to be refugees were eligible for resettlement, whereas Vietnamese who did not qualify for refugee status were expected to avail themselves of the voluntary repatriation option. By the end of 1994, the CPA had facilitated the resettlement of 79,551 Vietnamese refugees, and the voluntary repatriation of 24,521 prima facie Lao refugees and 68,124 Vietnamese who were determined not to be refugees.

3. During 1994 a total of 7,018 Vietnamese and 6,187 prima facie Lao refugees were resettled, and 12,555 Vietnamese and 7,172 Lao repatriated voluntarily within the CPA framework. At the end of 1994, 2,906 pre-cut-off date Vietnamese and 11,438 prima facie Lao refugees, and 43,194 Vietnamese and 486 Lao who were determined not to be refugees, remained in camps pending durable solutions.

4. While the major part of UNHCR CPA expenditure for Viet Nam in 1994 covered repatriation grants and internal transportation, UNHCR also financed 109 micro-projects to support communities in 43 provinces which received returnees. This assistance targeted the rehabilitation of community infrastructure including improvement of schools, dispensaries, roads, bridges, irrigation schemes, and small-scale agricultural support and vocational training activities. Further reintegration assistance came from the European Community International Bridging Programme, which provided loans to some 25,000 returnees over a four-year-period.

5. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic two new rural settlements were established during 1994, one in Vientiane with a capacity of 1,000 persons, and the other in Bokeo province, financed by the European Commission, with a capacity of 550 persons. A new site in Khamouane province was initiated, with a settlement capacity of 3,000 returnees.

6. The monitoring of the reintegration of returnees in their countries of origin remained a priority. UNHCR is satisfied that persons returning to Viet Nam and the Lao People's Democratic Republic do so in safety and dignity and have not been subject to mistreatment after their return. UNHCR monitoring officers are

international staff who speak (often several) local languages and are thoroughly familiar with Viet Nam and the Lao People's Democratic Republic. Returnees are also closely monitored by other members of the international community, for example through missions by various national refugee councils and non-governmental groups, and through the permanent presence of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) who are extensively involved in the implementation of returnee reintegration assistance programmes.

7. The very promising rate of voluntary repatriation achieved in 1994 was expected to improve further in 1995. On 16 March 1995 the sixth Steering Committee meeting of the International Conference on Indo-Chinese Refugees established a target date of 31 December 1995 for the conclusion of activities under the CPA in ASEAN countries and shortly thereafter with regard to Hong Kong. More streamlined procedures to process voluntary repatriants and to implement the Orderly Return Programmes were agreed upon.

8. In the first four months of 1995, 1,079 Vietnamese and 2,166 prima facie Lao refugees were resettled, and 3,084 Vietnamese and 1,282 Lao repatriated voluntarily. From mid-May 1995 interest in voluntary repatriation declined to negligible levels due to renewed expectations of resettlement to the United States. By early July 1995, the CPA had lost its voluntary repatriation momentum; some 41,000 Vietnamese who were determined not to be refugees, 7,037 prima facie Lao refugees and 167 Lao determined not to be refugees remained in camps in first-asylum countries. Some allegations have been made of abuses of the CPA refugee screening procedures in certain countries of first asylum. UNHCR initiated in-depth reviews to investigate such claims and found that, despite shortcomings inevitable in a process of such magnitude in a region with no prior experience of refugee status determination, the screening properly and fairly identified cases with serious protection concerns.

9. Under prevailing circumstances it is unclear whether the target date of 31 December 1995 for the conclusion of activities under the CPA can be met. Furthermore, it is unclear whether earmarked funds will be available to meet the costs of continuing care and maintenance for those Vietnamese and Lao remaining in camps in first-asylum countries at the end of 1995 who were determined not to be refugees, should the Steering Committee consider this necessary.

Comprehensive Plan of Action (CPA)
(in thousands of dollars)

Country/ territory/ project/area	1994	1995		1996
	Expenditure	Initial programme Needs as projected at 1/6/94	Revised programme needs as projected at 15/5/95	Initial programme needs as projected at 15/5/95
China	81.9	-	-	-
Hong Kong	14,017.4	17,484.1	21,720.0	-
Indonesia	2,323.3	300.8	1,225.5	-
Japan	1,375.9	1,189.4	791.8	-
LPDR	4,548.0	4,414.9	5,446.0	3,573.7
Malaysia	2,979.5	1,562.5	1,633.4	-
Philippines	4,993.3	1,536.7	1,770.1	-
Singapore	236.0	211.3	271.6	-
Viet Nam	12,352.4	13,487.8	17,672.5	3,540.8
Thailand	4,133.4	2,094.1	2,519.8	220.1
Regional projects	1,539.6	9,678.6	11,606.2	-
Headquarters	2,287.0	2,365.8	2,372.1	1,852.4
Total	50,868.6	54,326.0	67,029.0	9,187.0

B. Sri Lanka Repatriation

10. The repatriation of Sri Lankan refugees from India continued during the reporting period, with 8,147 returning in 1994 and 10,013 during the first quarter of 1995. The acceleration in the repatriation rate in early 1995 was due mainly to the cessation of hostilities between the Sri Lankan Government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), which was in effect from 8 January to 19 April 1995. Some 50 per cent of the returnees returned to their home villages within two to three days of their arrival in Sri Lanka, while others prolonged their stay in the transit camps and Open Relief Centres until they gained a better understanding of the security situation in their villages of origin. More than 31,000 persons have returned to Sri Lanka since July 1992, when UNHCR began monitoring the voluntary nature of the repatriation from the southern Indian State of Tamil Nadu, where approximately 54,000 refugees are still living in camps. It is anticipated that, should the security situation in Sri Lanka become favourable, a further 10,000 persons may return during the third quarter of 1995, and a further 20,000 in 1996.

11. Since the situation in Sri Lanka remains unstable, UNHCR is not promoting repatriation, but is actively assisting those who decide to return voluntarily. In India, the Office will monitor the voluntary nature of the return, and in Sri Lanka, UNHCR will complement government assistance to returnees using its strategy of immediate assistance in reception and transit centres, pre-resettlement assistance in the form of shelter materials, and, most importantly, reintegration assistance in the form of micro-projects. Through the implementation of

small-scale community-based micro-projects, internally displaced persons living returnee areas also benefit from UNHCR's assistance.

12. As of December 1994, UNHCR has provided limited assistance to 9,089 internally displaced persons living mostly in the Open Relief Centres in Madhu, Palampiddy and Pesalai, in addition to the assistance provided to the 6,277 returnees who lived in transit camps at that time. This does not include internally displaced persons who were assisted together with returnees within t framework of micro-projects, for whom exact figures are not available.

13. The significant reduction in beneficiary figures compared to 1993 was due the progressive movement of returnees and internally displaced persons out of transit centres and Open Relief Centres back to their villages, which began in mid-1994 and continued up until April 1995 when the cessation of hostilities en The resumption of hostilities has slowed down the movement from the centres.

14. The already planned contribution towards improving living conditions in internally displaced person camps in the districts of Puttalam and Anuradhapura not materialize since, as of the third quarter of 1994, the Government embarked a plan for the accelerated settlement of the affected population in their villa of origin and, where this was not possible, on alternative land. Therefore, th funds allocated for this activity will now be used in 1995/1996. However, in l of the new government policy, UNHCR will shift the emphasis of the assistance programme for this group of internally displaced persons from care and maintena in the camps to rehabilitation, using a combination of pre-settlement assistanc and micro-projects.

15. The passive monitoring of rejected asylum-seekers from Switzerland started planned in June 1994, on the basis of a bilateral agreement signed between the Swiss and Sri Lankan Governments on 11 January 1994. By the end of 1994, a tot of 95 persons had returned from Switzerland and another 117 persons returned du the first quarter of 1995.

16. A new UNHCR appeal for almost $ 13 million was launched in June 1994 to co the period July 1994 to December 1995. As of March 1995 a total of $ 6.2 milli had been contributed.

Sri Lanka
(in thousands of dollars)

Country/ area	1994	1995		1996
	Expenditure	Initial programme needs as projected at 1/6/94	Revised programme needs as projected at 15/5/95	Initial programme needs as projected at 15/5/95
Sri Lanka	4,872.4	7,680.7	7,048.6	6,072.5
India	237.0	505.4	368.8	369.3
Thailand	103.5	150.5	100.9	45.4
Headquarters	600.0	570.9	889.1	1,190.9
Total	5,812.9	8,907.5	8,407.4	7,678.1

C. Myanmar Repatriation

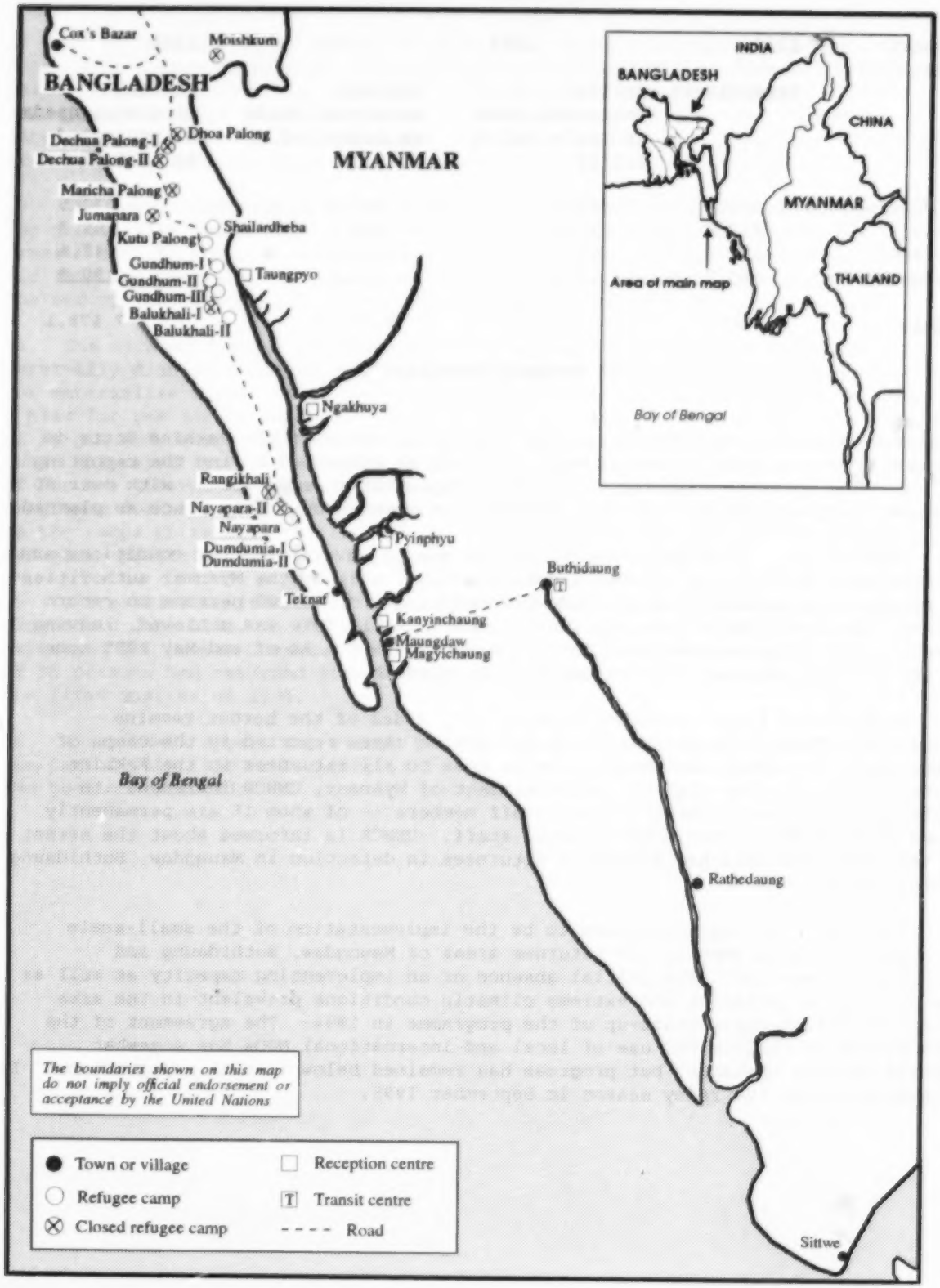
17. The voluntary repatriation of the Muslim residents of the Rakhine State in Myanmar from the camps in Bangladesh continued as scheduled during the reporting period. The positive response to the mass registration exercise -- with over 90 per cent volunteering to return -- enabled the movements to take place as planned.

18. Despite several movement cancellations due to adverse weather conditions and a three-week halt in the movements during October 1994 by the Myanmar authorities to prevent the spread of plague, the planned target of 80,000 persons to return during 1994 under UNHCR auspices starting on 30 April 1994 was achieved, leaving some 120,000 refugees scheduled to return during 1995. As of end-May 1995 some 52,000 persons remained in nine camps in Bangladesh.

19. Cooperation from the authorities on both sides of the border remains excellent. There have been very few protection cases reported in the camps of Bangladesh, and UNHCR has unrestricted access to all returnees in the Rakhine State. Following approval by the Government of Myanmar, UNHCR increased its staffing levels to 19 international staff members -- of whom 15 are permanently based in Maungdaw -- and some 40 local staff. UNHCR is informed about the arrest of returnees and also has access to returnees in detention in Maungdaw, Buthidaung and Sittwe prisons.

20. The main challenge continues to be the implementation of the small-scale reintegration programme in the returnee areas of Maungdaw, Buthidaung and Rathidaung townships. The initial absence of an implementing capacity as well as the geographic isolation and extreme climatic conditions prevalent in the area inhibited a full-scale start-up of the programme in 1994. The agreement of the authorities to the limited use of local and international NGOs has somewhat alleviated this obstacle, but progress has remained below initial expectations. It is planned after the rainy season in September 1995.

BANGLADESH/MYANMAR



21. Small-scale projects under implementation include a health education programme, renovation of rural health centres, provision of medical equipment and assistance to schools. A total of 41 schools are being renovated, 291 brick-lined wells have been constructed, 151 pords repaired, and 96 school and hospital latrines constructed. A fruit tree planting and vegetable gardening programme for the female headed households is also underway.

22. The WFP's food-for-work scheme has constructed 23 village access roads with a combined length of 18.5 kilometres, and has enlarged 20 water storage ponds.

23. In addition, UNHCR has implementing arrangements with three NGOs -- Action International Contre la Faim, BRIDGE Asia-Japan, and the Myanmar Red Cross Society, the last in cooperation with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The focus of these programmes is on water and sanitation, vocational skills training and special assistance to the most vulnerable.

24. The response to the joint UNHCR/WFP Appeal covering all aspects of the operation in both Bangladesh and Myanmar for 1994 and 1995 has been positive. Of the $ 34.1 million requested by UNHCR, $ 21 million had been contributed as of end-May 1995. While initially it had been foreseen that the programme could be completed by the end of 1995, it has become apparent that much more time will be required to implement a meaningful reintegration programme which will help prevent future outflows.

Myanmar Repatriation
(in thousands of dollars)

Country/ area	1994	1995		1996
	Expenditure	Initial programme needs as projected at 1/6/94	Revised programme needs as projected at 15/5/95	Initial programme needs as projected at 15/5/95
Bangladesh	2,268.6	5,307.1	3,224.7	211.6
Myanmar	7,858.2	15,415.0	12,193.5	4,353.8
Headquarters	1,322.4	1,463.9	1,890.4	2,412.6
Total	11,449.2	22,186.0	17,308.6	6,978.0